

MARCH 2021

winmeen.com  
*Learning Leads to Ruling*



# CURRENT AFFAIRS



1. When is the 'Zero Discrimination Day' observed annually across the world?

- A) March 01 ☒
- B) March 02
- C) March 03
- D) March 04



- ✓ The 'Zero Discrimination Day' is observed annually across the world on March 1, by UNAIDS. UNAIDS is the leading global forum which aims to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

2. When is International Polar Bear Day observed?

- A) February 25
- B) February 27 ☒
- C) February 28
- D) March 01



- ✓ International Polar Bear Day is an annual event celebrated every Feb.27 to raise awareness about the conservation status of the polar bear. International Polar Bear Day is organized by Polar Bears International to raise awareness about the impact of global warming and reduced sea ice on polar bear populations.

3. In which country the 30<sup>th</sup> Adriatic Pearl tournament took place?

- A) India
- B) Japan
- C) Montenegro ☒
- D) Italy



- ✓ The 30<sup>th</sup> Adriatic Pearl tournament was organised in Budva, Montenegro. Indian Women's team topped the tournament with 10 medals – 5 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze. This was followed by Uzbekistan in second place and Czech Republic in third place.

4. Which organisation in India is to co-chair 2021 Asia Economic Dialogue?

- A) Pune International Center ☒
- B) IIT – Madras
- C) IIM – Ahmedabad
- D) BITS Pilani



- ✓ The 2021 Asia Economic Dialogue would be co-chaired by Pune International Centre, India. The event would witness the participation of Union External Affairs Minister S Jayshankar along with his counterparts from Japan, Australia, Maldives, Mauritius and Bhutan.
- ✓ The Asia Economic Dialogue is a flagship geo-economics conference of the Ministry of External Affairs.

5. What type of missile is VL– SRSAM?

- A) Air to Air Missile
- B) Surface to Surface Missile
- C) Intercontinental Missile
- D) Surface to Air Missile ☒



- ✓ The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted two launches of VL– SRSAM (Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile). This missile has been specially designed by the DRDO for deployment in Indian Navy. This missile has been developed to combat various aerial threats.

6. What is 'DigiBoxx' that was recently launched by the CEO of NITI Aayog?

- A) Asset Management Platform ☒
- B) Document Repository
- C) Social App
- D) Messaging App



- ✓ The CEO of NITI Aayog Amitabh Kant has virtually launched India's first digital asset management platform DigiBoxx. It is a digital file storage, sharing and management Software as a service (SaaS) product. He also became the first user of the platform, which provides a secure way to store all files in one centralised location.

7. Which Union Ministry has launched 'e-Dharti Geo portal'?

- A) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs ☒
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Ministry of Earth Sciences
- D) Ministry of Power



- ✓ Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has recently launched the 'e-Dharti Geo Portal'. The portal aims to integrate legacy drawings such as maps and lease plans in the management information system named e-Dharti and make it a geographic information system (GIS)-enabled system.

8. Which institution is to provide USD 304 million loan to Assam to enhance Intra-state Power Transmission Project?

- A) ADB
- B) World Bank
- C) AIIB ☒
- D) New Development Bank



- ✓ India and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) signed a \$304 million loan agreement for the Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project.
- ✓ The project aims to construct transmission substations and lay required transmission lines.

9. As per the recent study by NASA and German Aerospace Center, some microbes are found on the Earth may survive in which planet?

- A) Jupiter
- B) Venus
- C) Mars ☒
- D) Mercury



- ✓ As per the recent study by NASA and German Aerospace Center, some microbes are found on the Earth may survive in the Mars. The researchers tested a new way to expose the bacteria and fungi to Mars-like conditions, by launching them in a scientific balloon up to Earth's stratosphere.

10. India's first undersea tunnel is being constructed in which city?

- A) Chennai
- B) Cochin
- C) Mumbai ☒
- D) Kolkata



- ✓ India's first undersea tunnel is being constructed in Mumbai, as a part of the Coastal Road project of the city. It is expected to be completed by the year 2023. The twin tunnels have a length of 2.07 km of which around a kilometre will be under the Arabian Sea. The undersea tunnel will be 20 metres below the seabed.

1. When is the World Wildlife Day observed annually across the world?

- A) March 03 ☒  
 B) March 04  
 C) March 05  
 D) March 06



- ✓ The World Wildlife Day is observed on March 3 every year to raise awareness about the dangers faced by the planet's fauna and flora. The 2021 theme is "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet".

2. When is the World Hearing Day observed?

- A) March 01  
 B) March 02  
 C) March 03 ☒  
 D) March 04



- ✓ 'World Hearing Day' is observed on 3 March each year, to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss. 'WHO' organizes an annual World Hearing Day seminar at its headquarters in Geneva. The theme of this year's day is "Hearing Care for All".

3. In which state 'Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary' is situated?

- A) Tamil Nadu  
 B) Kerala ☒  
 C) Karnataka  
 D) Telangana



- ✓ A dragonfly survey jointly conducted by the Forest Department and Ferns Nature Conservation Society (FNCS), concluded recently in Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary. The Sanctuary is located in Kerala in the Western Ghats. The survey lasted for nearly 4 months and 84 species of odonates were spotted during the survey. Odonates are the order of insects comprising dragonflies and damselflies.

4. In which state, the Advanced Institute of Integrated Research in Livestock and Animal Science (AIIRLAS) has been inaugurated recently?

- A) Tamil Nadu ☒  
 B) Kerala  
 C) Karnataka  
 D) Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Edappadi K. Palaniswami has recently inaugurated the Advanced Institute of Integrated Research in Livestock and Animal Science (AIIRLAS) in the state. It is located in Thalaivasal of Salem district. It is considered to be the largest such institution in Asia and has been constructed at a cost of Rs.1,023 crore.

5. 'Hunter Killers', which was making news recently, are to be procured by which Indian Armed Force?

- A) Indian Air Force  
 B) Indian Army ☒  
 C) Indian Coastal Guard  
 D) Indian Navy



- ✓ The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by defence minister Rajnath Singh approved the Indian Army's proposal to buy 118 Arjun Mark 1-A 'Hunter Killers'. With this approval, Indian Army will soon have 118 indigenous Arjun Mk-1A Main Battle Tanks, manufactured by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

6. Amazonia - 1 satellite, which was making news recently, belongs to which country?

- A) France  
 B) Brazil ☒  
 C) Finland  
 D) Philippines



- ✓ The ISRO's 53rd space mission using the PSLV C51 rocket will launch Amazonia-1 as the primary satellite. This satellite belongs to Brazil. In addition, the launch vehicle will also carry 18 co-passenger payloads. The rocket would be launched from Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh.

7. "Namma Cargo" service has been launched in which state?

- A) Tamil Nadu  
 B) Kerala  
 C) Karnataka ☒  
 D) Telangana



- ✓ The Chief Minister of Karnataka B.S. Yediyurappa has recently launched the 'Namma Cargo' service in the state. Under this initiative, the state road transport corporation buses would carry cargo parcels to generate additional revenue to the state.  
 ✓ This is being implemented in 109 bus stations in Karnataka and select locations of neighbouring states.

8. Which is the first country to receive the batch of free Covid vaccines through COVAX scheme?

- A) DRC  
 B) Ghana ☒  
 C) Sudan  
 D) Ethiopia



- ✓ Ghana became the first country to receive a batch of free Covid vaccine doses through the COVAX initiative. The World Health Organization (WHO) leads the COVAX initiative together with Gavi the Vaccine Alliance and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations. It aims to share the vaccines to poorer countries.

9. 'Alpine Plant species', which are critically endangered have been discovered in which state?

- A) Assam  
 B) Sikkim  
 C) Arunachal Pradesh ☒  
 D) Himachal Pradesh



- ✓ A new species of the 'alpine plant' in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district has been discovered by a team of scientists of three institutes. The new species, which was named as 'Cremanthodium indicum', belongs to the family of Himalayan sunflower. The species is endemic to Penga-Teng Tso Lake of Tawang district of the state.

10. Which city is the venue of the Maritime India Summit 2021?

- A) Chennai  
 B) Cochin  
 C) Mumbai  
 D) Virtual Mode ☒



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to virtually inaugurate the second edition of the Maritime India Summit (MIS) on March 2, 2021. As per the official statement by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the opening session will have ministerial-level participation from several countries. It is also expected that Rs 20,000 crore worth MoUs will be signed during this Summit.



1. Which country has assumed the chairship of BRICS for the year 2021?

- A) India ☒
- B) China
- C) Brazil
- D) Russia



- ✓ For the year 2021, the chairmanship of BRICS is vested with India. India has commenced its chairship with the inauguration of 3-day-long Sherpas' meeting. The meeting was chaired by Secretary (CPV & OIA) of Ministry of External Affairs. During the meet, India introduced to the member countries its themes and priorities for the year 2021.

2. From which date, the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of COVID vaccination is set to commence in India?

- A) 2021 March 01 ☒
- B) 2021 March 15
- C) 2021 April 01
- D) 2021 June 01



- ✓ The Government of India has given a nod for 2<sup>nd</sup> round of vaccination for the COVID-19 disease and it is set to commence from March 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. This phase of vaccination is targeted at people above the age of 60 years and those above 45 years old. The beneficiaries can get themselves vaccinated in any govt hospital free of cost as well as at private clinics.

3. The first 'India Protein Day' is celebrated on which year?

- A) 2019
- B) 2020 ☒
- C) 2021
- D) 1990



- ✓ A national-level public health initiative, 'Right to Protein' has launched India's first 'Protein Day' on February 27, 2020. The day is observed to raise awareness about the nutritional benefits of protein. This year, the theme of the day is selected as "Powering with Plant Protein".

4. Which organisation publishes the "State of School Feeding Worldwide" Report?

- A) FAO
- B) IUCN
- C) UN - WFP ☒
- D) WTO



- ✓ The "State of School Feeding Worldwide" is published by the United Nations - World Food Programme (WFP). It was first published in the year 2013 and the most report has been published for the year 2020. This report provides a detailed analysis on the implementation and coverage of school based nutritional programmes.

5. As per the new Information Technology Rules, digital platforms will have to provide required information within how many hours?

- A) 12 hours
- B) 24 hours
- C) 48 hours
- D) 72 hours ☒

72

- ✓ The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 has been framed recently, which was

released by the Electronics and IT Ministry. Under the rules, platforms such as WhatsApp will have to provide information on identity verification to the authorised agencies within 72 hours.

- ✓ The originator of unlawful messages would be zeroed on and the platforms will have to set up grievance redressal mechanism.

6. Which Union Ministry has launched the City Innovation Exchange (CiX) platform?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs
- B) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ☒
- C) Ministry of Electronics and IT
- D) Ministry of Education

- ✓ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has recently launched the City Innovation Exchange (CiX) platform. The platform aims to bring together academia, businesses, and the government to design innovative solutions for the challenges of the cities. The platform has over 400 start-ups, 100 smart cities, more than 150 challenge statements and over 215 solutions when it was launched.

7. As per the recent forecast by the Moody's investor service, what would be GDP growth rate of India in 2021-22?

- A) 7.5 percent
- B) 9.5 percent
- C) 13.5 percent ☒
- D) 15 percent

MOODY'S  
ANALYTICS

- ✓ Global rating agency Moody's revised India's 2021-22 GDP growth forecast to 13.5 per cent. The country's growth will moderate to 6.2 per cent in the following year.
- ✓ Moody's also retained India's sovereign rating at Baa3, the lowest investment grade, with a negative outlook. Indian ratings agency ICRA announced that India's real GDP will grow 10.5 per cent in FY22.

8. Ministry of Jal Shakti has selected how many sites under Phase 4 of the Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative?

- A) 8
- B) 12 ☒
- C) 15
- D) 16

12

- ✓ The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti has announced that it has selected 12 iconic sites under Phase 4 of the Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative.
- ✓ SIP is an initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G), which aims to improve the sanitation and cleanliness standards at and around the sites. Ministry of Jal Shakti coordinates with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and the State/UT governments.

9. What is the name of the messaging platform to be used by the Indian Army shortly?

- A) Secure Application for Internet ☒
- B) Safe Messaging Service
- C) Secure Instant Messaging
- D) Safe Communication Network



- ✓ As per the recent statement of the Indian Army chief General MMNaravane, the Indian Army is set to start using a messaging platform called SAI (Secure Application for Internet), for internal communications.

- ✓ The application, which was developed by Colonel Sai Shankar, is undergoing the process of obtaining cybersecurity clearance and data testing. After getting clearance, the platform will be used from April 1, this year.

---

10. In which place, ASI has discovered the first epigraphical reference to the death of Krishnadevaraya Nayaka?

- A) Agra
- B) Mathura
- C) Tumkur ☒
- D) Krishnagiri



- ✓ Recently, members of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have discovered the first epigraphical to the death of Krishnadevaraya Nayaka. Krishnadevaraya Nayaka was the emperor of Vijayanagara empire and ruled the kingdom from 1509–1529 AD.
- ✓ The epigraphical reference was found near Gopalakrishna temple at Honnenahalli of Tumkur district in Karnataka.

1. Which international organisation has released the World Employment and Social Outlook 2021?

- A) IMF  
B) ILO ☒  
C) WEF  
D) UNICEF



- ✓ The World Employment and Social Outlook 2021 is released by the International Labour Organisation. This report is one of ILO's flagship publications that gives details on transformation of way work is organised. It also depicts the experience of workers and businesses on online web-based and location-based platforms.

2. Which organisation has released the Report on Currency and Finance (RCF)?

- A) International Monetary Fund  
B) World Bank  
C) Reserve Bank of India ☒  
D) New Development Bank



- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has recently released a report titled Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2020-21. This theme for this year's report is "Reviewing the Monetary Policy Framework". The report critically analyses the trends in inflation and inflation target for March 2021 against the prevailing uncertain economic atmosphere.

3. Which organisation is set to launch COVID-19 Oxygen Emergency Taskforce?

- A) UNICEF  
B) Indian Medical Association  
C) AIIMS  
D) WHO ☒



- ✓ A consortium led by the World Health Organisation (WHO) has decided to launch a COVID-19 Oxygen Emergency Taskforce. This decision comes amidst the pressure on health systems of low-and-middle-income countries, many of those are running out of oxygen. WHO, under the proposed taskforce aims to increase the supply of oxygen to health systems across the globe.

4. Which movie won the best picture (Drama) award in the 78<sup>th</sup> Golden Globe award?

- A) Nomadland ☒  
B) Pariyerum Perumal  
C) The Crown  
D) Kanaa



- ✓ The winners of the 78th Golden Globes were recently announced with the "Nomadland" and "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm" bagging many awards. While "Nomadland" won the award for the drama category, "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm" won for the comedy or musical division.  
✓ Chloe Zhao, the director of "Nomadland," became the first woman to win the best director award since 1984.

5. Which state is set to host the Indian women's League (IWL)?

- A) Kerala  
B) Odisha ☒  
C) Rajasthan  
D) Tripura



- ✓ This year's Indian Women's League (IWL) will be hosted by the state of Odisha. IWL is a top division women's professional football league in India, which is conducted by All India Football Federation (AIFF). It was first played with 6 teams in Delhi. The last such season was the 4<sup>th</sup> IWL played with 12 teams in Bangalore.

6. When is the 'Zero Discrimination Day' observed annually across the world?

- A) March 02  
B) March 01 ☒  
C) March 05  
D) March 04



- ✓ The 'Zero Discrimination Day' is observed annually across the world on March 1, by UNAIDS. UNAIDS is the leading global forum which aims to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

7. "Sugamya Bharat App" is being launched as a part of which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Women & Child Welfare Development  
B) Ministry of Skill Development  
C) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment ☒  
D) Ministry of Science & Technology



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment has developed an app named "Sugamya Bharat App". It has been developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), for enhancing accessibility. It is being launched along with a hand book named "Access - The Photo Digest".

8. India launched the 'Year of Environment' with which friendly country?

- A) France ☒  
B) Sri Lanka  
C) Mauritius  
D) Myanmar



- ✓ Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the Indo-French year of Environment along with his French counterpart. India and France have environment projects being undertaken in Assam, Rajasthan and a project to be started in Jharkhand.  
✓ The objective of this event is to strengthen Indo-French cooperation in sustainable development.

9. Which is the first state in India to launch a policy to establish Special Agriculture Zones (SAZs)?

- A) Tamil Nadu  
B) Punjab  
C) Uttarakhand ☒  
D) Telangana



- ✓ Uttarakhand was the first state to set up Special Agricultural Zones (SAZs) in 2011. It was launched on the lines of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs). It encouraged the farmers to develop high-quality crop seeds typical to hilly regions.

10. As per the second advanced estimates of GDP released by the MoSPI, what is the GDP of the financial year 2020-21?

- A) - 7 per cent
- B) - 8 per cent
- C) - 9 per cent ☒
- D) -10 per cent



- ✓ As per the second advanced estimates of GDP released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the GDP for the financial year 2020-21 is recorded as -8 per cent. NSO, MoSPI also released the quarterly estimates. After two consecutive quarters of contraction, India's GDP for the October-December quarter (Q3) grew by 0.4 per cent. With this the country is said to have exited recession.
-

1. The traditional 'Lantern Festival', which was making news recently, is celebrated in which country?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) China ☒
- C) Japan
- D) South Korea



- ✓ China celebrates its traditional Lantern festival, on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the first Chinese lunar month. The festival also marks the final day of the Chinese New Year or 'Spring Festival' period. This year, the country entered the 'Year of the Ox' on February 12, 2021. This Festival also falls the first full moon night in the Chinese calendar.

2. The 'Technology and Innovation Report 2021' has been released by which organisation?

- A) FAO
- B) UNCTAD ☒
- C) WTO
- D) IMF



- ✓ The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has recently released a report titled 'Technology and Innovation Report 2021'. The UNCTAD Technology and Innovation Report 2021 examines whether modern technologies widen the existing inequalities and create more inequalities. The report shows that with a present USD 350 billion market, the technologies could grow to USD 3.2 trillion by 2025.

3. Which Ministry has finalised the list of products for One District One Focus Product?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs
- B) Ministry of Commerce and Industries
- C) Ministry of Agriculture ☒
- D) Ministry of Labour and Employment



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has finalised the list of products to be covered under One District One Focus Product (ODOFP). This list has been prepared in consultation with the Union Ministry of Food Processing and Industries for 728 districts across the country. The identified products belong to agricultural, horticultural, animal, poultry, milk, fisheries and aquaculture, marine sectors.

4. Which bird has been spotted in Indonesia after 170 years?

- A) Black-browed Babbler ☒
- B) White Sparrow
- C) Forest Owlet
- D) Bengal Florican



- ✓ Black-browed Babbler, which was considered to be extinct, has reappeared after 170 years.
- ✓ The bird has been spotted in Borneo of Indonesia. The bird was first described by scientists around 1848 and it was then considered to be extinct. According to Global Wildlife Conservation, two men accidentally photographed the bird in Borneo, Indonesia.

5. What is the new name of the merged entity of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha channels?

- A) India TV
- B) Sansad Channel ☒
- C) LRS TV
- D) RS TV



- ✓ Indian Parliament has integrated its two TV channels for the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha to create a new entity named Sansad TV. This new platform will continue to live telecast house proceedings and with news and current affairs programme in Hindi and English. Former textiles secretary Ravi Kapoor has been appointed as the CEO of the new channel.

6. Which leader is set to receive CERAWEEK global energy and environment leadership award?

- A) Narendra Modi ☒
- B) Ramnath Govind
- C) Mamta Banerjee
- D) Nirmala Sitharaman



- ✓ The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has been conferred with the CERAWEEK global energy and environment leadership award. He is set to be presented the award at the CERAWEEK international energy conference, which is an annual conference organized by the information and insights company IHS Markit in Houston, Texas.

7. How many satellites were launched by the ISRO using its PSLV-C51 rocket?

- A) 18
- B) 19 ☒
- C) 20
- D) 21



- ✓ The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C51 (PSLV-C51) rocket of India successfully lifted off from Sriharikota launch pad. It was carrying 19 satellites from Brazil, USA and India with the Brazil's 637-kilogram optical earth observation satellite Amazonia 1, as its primary passenger.

8. National Science Day is being observed in India, to commemorate the discovery of which scientist?

- A) Jagdish Chandra Bose
- B) C V Raman ☒
- C) Srinivasa Ramanujan
- D) Homi J Bhabha



- ✓ National Science Day is being observed in India every year on 28th of February to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect'. On the same day, CV Raman announced the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' and he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930.
- ✓ The theme for National Science Day 2021 is 'Future of Science and Technology and Innovation: Impact on Education Skills and Work'.

9. Pramod Chandra Mody is the Chairman of which organisation?

- A) SEBI
- B) CBIC
- C) CBDT ☒
- D) IRDAI



- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has extended the re-appointment of Pramod Chandra Mody as Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). PC Mody, a 1982-batch Indian Revenue Service officer, was appointed as the CBDT Chairman in February 2019. His tenure was extended in August last year for six months.



10. India has donated a 'Digital cobalt therapy machine' developed by BARC, to which country?

- A) Mauritius
- B) Madagascar ☒
- C) Myanmar
- D) Maldives



- ✓ India has donated an advanced 'Digital cobalt therapy machine' for cancer treatment, developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, to the island nation of Madagascar.
- ✓ 'Bhabhatron-II', the telecobalt machine was recently inaugurated in Antananarivo, capital of Madagascar by the country's President Andry Rajoelina. It is one of the few countries that have received the Bhabhatron-II radio therapy machine from India.

1. What is the theme of the National Safety Day 2021?

- A) Sadak Suraksha ☒
- B) Nari Suraksha
- C) Social Suraksha
- D) Cyber Suraksha



- ✓ March 4 is observed every year as National Safety Day in India with the aim of creating awareness among people with respect to safety measures. This year, the focus of National Safety Day is on road safety and the theme is 'Sadak Suraksha' (road safety). The celebrations this year have also been spread over a week and National Safety Week will be observed from March 4 to March 10.

2. Which day is celebrated as International Women's Day?

- A) March 7
- B) March 8 ☒
- C) March 9
- D) March 10



- ✓ The International Women's Day is being celebrated across the world on March 8, 2021. This day is observed on March 8 every year in order to help in shaping a gender equal world. The day is being observed this year under the theme "Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world".

3. Which country has launched the satellite Arktika-M?

- A) Brazil
- B) France
- C) Russia ☒
- D) Australia



- ✓ The Russian Space Agency has launched its satellite Arktika-M. This satellite is intended to monitor the climate in the Arctic region.
- ✓ A Soyuz rocket took off from the Russian cosmodrome in Kazakhstan carrying Russia's first satellite launched for monitoring the Arctic's climate. Russia seeks to utilise the energy-rich region for the nation's developmental interest.

4. Fall Armyworm (FAW) infestation on crops has been reported recently in which place?

- A) Theni, Tamil Nadu
- B) Wayanad, Kerala ☒
- C) Nellore, Andhra Pradesh
- D) Mysore, Karnataka



- ✓ Recently, Wayanad of Kerala has witnessed infestation of fall armyworm (FAW), which has caused excessive damage to crops in the place. The attack has been reported on maize and plantain cultivations.

5. Which organisation is the implementing agency for Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana?

- A) Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India ☒
- B) Drugs Corporation of India
- C) Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd
- D) IFFCO



- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PM-BJP) is an initiative of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, under which quality medicines are provided to the general public at affordable cost.
- ✓ This scheme is being implemented through Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI). The organisation is celebrating the 3<sup>rd</sup> Janaushadhi Diwas on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021, with the theme being "Seva bhi - Rozgar bhi".

6. Which country is the host of the multinational Exercise Desert Flag?

- A) UAE ☒
- B) USA
- C) UK
- D) France



- ✓ 'Desert Flag' is a multinational exercise, which is to be held in the United Arab Emirates. Ten countries are to take part in this exercise including India, France and the U.S. This exercise will be held for three weeks this month. This semi-annual exercise will involve multiple, intensive air combat sorties. IAF's Su-30-MK1 and C-17s fighter jets took off recently to participate in this exercise.

7. The fossils of Titanosaur have recently been unearthed in which country?

- A) Argentina ☒
- B) USA
- C) UAE
- D) Russia



- ✓ Titanosaur is a group of long-necked plant-eating dinosaurs that walked on four legs. Scientists have recently discovered the fossils of a dinosaur species named 'Ninjatitan zapatai' which lived 140 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period.
- ✓ The fossils which have been unearthed, is said to be the oldest-known member of the dinosaur group known as titanosaurs.

8. The Land Ports Authority of India works under which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs ☒
- B) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- C) Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways
- D) Ministry of Jal Shakti



- ✓ The Land Ports Authority of India was founded in 2012. It is a statutory body working under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is responsible for creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing border infrastructure in India. It manages several Integrated Check Posts all across Borders of India. The 9<sup>th</sup> foundation day of the Land Ports Authority of India was observed on March 1, 2021.

9. Sagar-Manthan: Mercantile Marine Domain Awareness Centre (MMDAC) has been launched in which summit?

- A) Ports India Summit
- B) Maritime India Summit ☒
- C) Shipping India Summit
- D) Indian Waterways Summit



- ✓ Prime Minister Modi inaugurated 'Maritime India Summit 2021', organised by the Ministry of Sports, Shipping and Waterways. India also launched a real-time vessel tracking system called 'Sagar-Manthan: Mercantile Marine Domain Awareness Centre (MMDAC)'.
- ✓ It is to be operated by DG Shipping and can also track foreign vessels as well as foreign vessels.

10. Sindhu Netra satellite has recently been successfully launched using which PSLV?

- A) PSLV-C51 ☒
- B) PSLV-C52
- C) PSLV-C53
- D) PSLV-C54



- ✓ Sindhu Netra satellite was successfully launched into space recently. It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to boost India's surveillance capability and improve monitoring of activities in the Indian Ocean Region. The launch was made using ISRO's PSLV-C51. The satellite is capable of automatic identification of warships and merchant ships in IOR.
-

1. Which country is building the world's first Platypus Sanctuary?

- A) India  
B) Sri Lanka  
C) Pakistan  
D) Australia ☒



- ✓ The New South Wales State government and the Taronga Conservation Society of Australia announced that they are building the world's first Platypus Sanctuary. This first-of-its kind refugee centre aims to promote breeding and rehabilitation of the duck-billed mammal, which has been facing extinction due to climate change. The facility is to be created in a zoo which is over 390 km from Sydney.

2. What is the theme of World Hearing Day 2021?

- A) Hearing care for All ☒  
B) Save Hearing  
C) Care for hearing  
D) Hearing care



- ✓ World Hearing Day is observed on 3 March to raise awareness about the measures that can be taken to prevent hearing loss. It is a campaign held each year by Office of Prevention of Blindness and Deafness of the World Health Organization (WHO). The theme of the campaign for 2021 is Hearing Care for All.

3. The International Waste Pickers' Day is observed on which date?

- A) March 1 ☒  
B) March 2  
C) March 3  
D) March 4



- ✓ International Waste Pickers' Day is observed on March 1 to mark the Colombian massacre that led to the brutal death of 11 workers. This day seeks to give voice and recognition to waste pickers/recyclers across the world.

4. What is the theme of World Wildlife Day 2021?

- A) Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet ☒  
B) For people, For planet, For ecosystem  
C) Forests – Pillars for people and planet  
D) None of the above



- ✓ World Wildlife Day is observed on March 3 across the world to celebrate wildlife and create awareness about the adverse impact of human activities and climate change on the wildlife.  
✓ This year, it is being celebrated under the theme- Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet.

5. What is the full form of NADMP?

- A) National Agriculture Disaster Management Plan ☒  
B) Ninth Agriculture Disaster Management Plan  
C) New Agriculture Disaster Management Plan  
D) Ninth Agriculture Disaster Mitigation Planning



- ✓ National Agriculture Disaster Management Plan (NADMP) seeks to guide the Union Agriculture Ministry in ensuring timely response to natural disasters like drought, floods and sudden crisis like COVID-19 pandemic.  
✓ It identifies 34 hazards posing threats to the agriculture sector. These include heat waves, earthquakes, animal attacks, desertification, agricultural fires, cyclones and overdependence on chemicals.

6. Which strategy has recently been launched with the objective of revamping the Indian maritime sector?

- A) Maritime India Vision 2030 ☒  
B) Maritime India Vision 2032  
C) Maritime India Vision 2035  
D) Maritime India Vision 2040



- ✓ Maritime India Vision 2030 is a 10-year strategy with the objective of revamping the Indian maritime sector. It seeks to attract Rs.3 lakh crore investment and generate employment for 20 lakh individuals. The plan also seeks to augment the annual revenue potential worth Rs.20,000 crore from major ports.

7. Which herb is being cultivated in Jammu as part of the Aroma Mission?

- A) Lavender ☒  
B) Parsley  
C) Mint  
D) Basil



- ✓ Lavender is being cultivated in Jammu as part of the Aroma Mission that was launched in 2016. Lavender is an aromatic herb with medicinal properties. It is a commercially important crop cultivated mainly for production of essential oils. Each litre of lavender essential oil is sold for INR 10,000.

8. What is the full form of ICLED?

- A) Inter-band cascade light emitting device ☒  
B) Interior-based cascade light emitting diode  
C) Intern link- band inter-band cascade light emitting  
D) None of the above



- ✓ ICLED or inter-band cascade light emitting device is a new type of high-powered light emitting diode that are used in quantitative analysis of several chemicals. It emits light in the mid IR wavelength regions. It was recently used to develop low-cost sensors to detect methane emission with high accuracy.

9. Which rare species of native Australian bee was recently spotted along the east coast of Australia?

- A) *Pharohylaeus lactiferous* ☒  
B) *Apis dorsata*  
C) *Apis florea*  
D) *Apis cerana indica*



- ✓ *Pharohylaeus lactiferous* is a rare species of native Australian bee that was recently spotted along the east coast of Australia. It was last spotted a century ago in 1923 in Queensland and only 6 individuals have ever been found. The invertebrate is threatened by wildfires, land fragmentation and climate change.

10. India's largest ground-based optical telescope has been installed in which state?

- A) Uttarakhand ☒  
B) Goa  
C) Karnataka  
D) Punjab



- ✓ The telescope is the product of an Indo-Belgian collaborative effort, assisted by the Russian Academy of Sciences, that was kicked off in 2007. It is going to be operated by the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), an autonomous research body under the Department of Science and Technology.



1. What is the full form of ADFOSC?

- A) Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph & Camera ☒  
 B) Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Scanning Camera  
 C) Aries-Devasthal Faded Object Scanning Camera  
 D) None of the above



- ✓ ADFOSC or Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph & Camera is a low-cost optical spectroscopy that was designed and developed by the scientists of ARIES, Nainital.  
 ✓ This spectroscopy will help the Devasthal Optical telescope use event faint light to locate distant quasars, galaxies, etc.

2. Which organisation has released the report named 'World Report on Hearing'?

- A) WHO ☒  
 B) FAO  
 C) IMF  
 D) ADB



- ✓ The World Health Organisation (WHO) released the first World Report on Hearing recently. It was launched ahead of World Hearing Day on March 3. As per the report, nearly 2.5 billion people worldwide, which is almost 1 in 4 people, will be living with some degree of hearing loss by 2050. The report also warns that at least 700 million of these people will require access to hearing care and rehabilitation services.

3. Which state is to conduct its first survey of the social and educational conditions of people from backward classes?

- A) Haryana  
 B) Odisha ☒  
 C) Madhya Pradesh  
 D) Maharashtra



- ✓ The Odisha government is set to begin its first state survey of the social and educational conditions of people from backward classes. In the state there are nearly 209 communities identified as socially and educationally backward classes (SEBCs). The classes comprise around 54 percent of the state's population. A proposal by the Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes (OSCBC) was approved in this regard.

4. Which publishing company was named as the 'Champion Publisher of the Year 2020', by WAN IFRA?

- A) The Hindu ☒  
 B) Express Publications  
 C) Daily Thanthi  
 D) None of the above



- ✓ The Hindu Group won two golds and two silvers at WAN IFRA's South Asian Digital Media Awards. The World Association of News Publishers or WAN-IFRA, is a global organisation of the world's press.  
 ✓ The company was named as the 'Champion Publisher of the Year'. The Hindu #KeepTheHabit campaign won a gold in 'Best Native Advertising / Branded Content Campaign'. Sportstar's website won a gold in 'Best in Lifestyle, Sports, Entertainment Website or Mobile Services'.

5. UNGA has declared 2023 as which special year, based on the resolution led by India?

- A) International Year of Millets ☒  
 B) International Year of Egg  
 C) International Year of Milk



D) International Year of Rice

- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly has unanimously declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. The unanimously adopted resolution was sponsored by India and supported by over 70 nations. The co-sponsors of the declaration include Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Russia and Senegal, and all Member States of the UN.

6. The Simlipal biosphere reserve is located in which Indian state?

- A) Odisha ☒  
 B) Uttarakhand  
 C) Rajasthan  
 D) Goa



- ✓ Simlipal biosphere reserve comprises of the Simlipal national park cum tiger reserve along with its adjoining areas. It is located in the eastern end of the Eastern Ghats, in Odisha. The name 'Simlipal' is derived from 'Simul' meaning silk cotton tree. Recently, there was a wildfire in the National Park and is raging for nearly a week.

7. Which city emerged as the best city according to the "Ease of Living Index-2020", in the million-plus population category?

- A) Pune  
 B) Chandigarh  
 C) Chennai  
 D) Bengaluru ☒



- ✓ Bengaluru emerged as the best city according to the "Ease of Living Index-2020", released by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. The rankings were announced for cities for which the assessment exercise was conducted in the year 2020. It is noteworthy that Chennai ranks fourth and Coimbatore seventh from Tamil Nadu in this list.  
 ✓ Around 111 cities participated in the assessment exercise. Shimla topped the category of cities with population of less than million.

8. Bao dhaan is a variety of rice cultivated in which Indian state?

- A) West Bengal  
 B) Assam ☒  
 C) Odisha  
 D) Karnataka



- ✓ 'Bao dhaan' is a variety of red rice that is rich in iron. It is cultivated in the alluvial soil in the Brahmaputra Valley in Assam. Recently, the first consignment of 'red rice' was flagged off to the United States of America (USA). The unique feature of the rice is that it is grown without the use of any chemical fertilizer.

9. According to recently published Municipal Performance Index, which city ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the category of million-plus cities?

- A) Indore ☒  
 B) Lucknow  
 C) Surat  
 D) Bhopal



- ✓ The Central govt recently published the Municipal Performance Index (MPI). In this index, Indore was ranked first in the category of Million-plus cities. It is followed by Surat and Bhopal. While in the 'less-than-million category', New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has been ranked first and is followed by Tirupati and Gandhinagar.

10. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day is celebrated on which date?

- A) March 05
- B) March 08
- C) March 10 ☒
- D) March 11



- ✓ The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day is celebrated every year on March 10. On this day, in 1969, the CISF was set up under an act of the Parliament of India with a strength of 2,800.
- ✓ It is directly under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and its headquarters are at New Delhi.

✓

1. Which organization recently published the "Food Waste Index Report, 2021"?

- A) UNEP ☒  
B) UNESCO  
C) UNCTAD  
D) FAO



- ✓ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) published the "Food Waste Index Report, 2021". As per the UNEP report, estimated 931 million tonnes of food were wasted across the world 2019. The agency also highlighted that 61% of the total food wasted came from households, 26% from food service and 13% from retail.

2. Which is the headquarters of the UN's Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)?

- A) Geneva ☒  
B) Brussels  
C) Rome  
D) Paris



- ✓ The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) was set up in 1947 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It is headquartered at Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ As per the recent report published by the UNECE, trapping and storing carbon dioxide emissions from fossil power generation and industry is needed to achieve carbon neutrality.

3. OPELIP, a tribal livelihood development program is funded by which organisation?

- A) World Bank  
B) IFAD ☒  
C) IMF  
D) ADB



- ✓ Odisha Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme (OPELIP) is a programme funded by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).
- ✓ The objective is to improve living conditions and reduce poverty among particularly vulnerable tribal groups through capacity building and improved agricultural practices.

4. Where is the headquarters of ICRISAT situated?

- A) Hyderabad ☒  
B) Chennai  
C) Mumbai  
D) Bengaluru



- ✓ The International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is an international organisation involved in agricultural research for rural development. Its headquarters is located at Patancheru, Hyderabad. It was recently roped in by the Odisha government for providing capacity-building initiatives for the state's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups via OPELIP scheme.

5. Where is the headquarters of CARICOM?

- A) South Africa  
B) Guyana ☒  
C) Zimbabwe  
D) Namibia



- ✓ CARICOM stands for Caribbean Community, which was founded in 1973 and headquartered in Georgetown, Guyana. It is also called Caribbean Community and Common Market.
- ✓ CARICOM is a grouping of twenty countries with fifteen Member States and five Associate Members. It aims to establish economic integration and cooperation among its members.

6. What is the name of India's initiative to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to friendly countries?

- A) Vaccine Maitri ☒  
B) Vaccine to Mitron  
C) Bharat Vaccine Mitra  
D) India contributes



- ✓ The Vaccine Maitri or the Vaccine Friendship initiative was started on January 20, 2021. Under the initiative, India supplies Made-in-India COVID-19 vaccines to its neighbouring countries. Bhutan and Maldives were the first country to get the vaccines. They are followed by Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles. Recently, consignment of Covid vaccines were airlifted for Guyana, Jamaica and Nicaragua.

7. Nagarhole Tiger Reserve is situated in which Indian state?

- A) Karnataka ☒  
B) Andhra Pradesh  
C) Maharashtra  
D) Goa



- ✓ Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, formerly known as Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarhole) National Park, is a wildlife reserve in Karnataka. It is a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. It is named after the river Nagarhole, which is the Kannada term for 'Serpent River'.
- ✓ The reserve was recently engulfed in a major forest fire, leading to the destruction of several acres of forest covers.

8. The "space hurricane", which was discovered recently, was spotted in which region of the Earth?

- A) North Pole ☒  
B) South Pole  
C) Inter-tropical Convergence Zone  
D) Karnataka



- ✓ The scientists have discovered a "space hurricane" for the first time. The hurricane swirled for eight hours over the North Pole in the upper atmosphere of Earth. The team of scientists from USA, Norway, China and United Kingdom observed and produced the image of space hurricane using the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) satellites and a 3D magnetosphere modelling.

9. Which organisation releases the 'World food price Index'?

- A) World Bank  
B) Food and Agriculture Organization ☒  
C) International Monetary Fund  
D) IFAD



- ✓ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) releases the Food price index, which measures monthly changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar. As per the recent January figure, the world food prices rose for a ninth consecutive month in February. The index hit its highest level since July 2014 and the rise is led by the rise in sugar and vegetable oils.

10. 'Maitri Setu' bridge has been constructed over which river?

- A) Brahmaputra
- B) Yamuna
- C) Kosi
- D) Feni ☒



- ✓ The 'Maitri Setu' is a 1.9 km long bridge that has been constructed over the river Feni in the state of Tripura.
  - ✓ This bridge connects India and Bangladesh. The bridge has been constructed by National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd at a project cost of Rs. 133 Crores.
-



1. India has commemorated the 'Chabahar Day' on which date?

- A) 2021 March 2  
B) 2021 March 4 ☒  
C) 2021 March 6  
D) 2021 March 8



- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that, India commemorates the 'Chabahar Day' on March 4, 2021 along the lines of the Maritime India Summit 2021 held in Delhi from March 2 to March 4. The virtual event witnessed the participation of ministers from Afghanistan, Iran, Armenia, Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

2. Which country has recently signed pact with India for purchase of BrahMos Missile?

- A) Pakistan  
B) Philippines ☒  
C) Sri Lanka  
D) Indonesia



- ✓ BrahMos is a medium-range supersonic cruise missile designed, developed and produced by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture company set up by India's DRDO and Russia's Mashinostroyeniya. It can be launched from submarines, ships, planes or land-based platforms.  
✓ Philippines signed pact with India recently for possible purchase of this missile.

3. What is the theme of the International Women's Day 2021?

- A) Educate Organise and Agitate  
B) Gender Equality: March against Patriarchy  
C) Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world ☒  
D) Impact of COVID-19 on women



- ✓ International Women's Day is observed every year on March 8 across the world, to highlight the achievements and problems faced by women.  
✓ The theme for this year is "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world." As per the United Nations Women, women remain under-represented in leadership roles and decision making across the world.

4. Singorgarh Fort, which was making news recently, is located in which state?

- A) Maharashtra  
B) Madhya Pradesh ☒  
C) Odisha  
D) Kerala



- ✓ The President of India Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone for the conservation works of Singorgarh Fort in Damoh district in Madhya Pradesh. During the program organised by Ministry of Culture and the state's Tribal Affairs Department, the President inaugurated the newly formed Jabalpur Circle of Archaeological Survey of India.

5. Indian Naval Ships INS Kulish and INS Sumedha visited the port of which country, for the first time?

- A) Sri Lanka  
B) Bangladesh ☒  
C) Myanmar  
D) Japan



- ✓ Indian Naval Ships INS Kulish and INS Sumedha recently arrived at the port city of Mongla in Bangladesh. They are visiting Bangladesh to

commemorate the ongoing 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' (Liberation War of 1971). INS Sumedha is an indigenously built offshore patrol vessel and INS Kulish is an indigenously built guided missile corvette.

6. Which Badminton player won gold in the BWF Swiss Open Super 300?

- A) P V Sindhu  
B) Carolina Marin ☒  
C) Naomi Osaka  
D) Saina Nehwal



- ✓ Olympic champion Carolina Marin won gold in the BWF Swiss Open Super 300 tournament. She defeated India's ace badminton player PV Sindhu 12-21, 5-21, in the final match of the women's singles event. This was the first final appearance of the reigning world champion P V Sindhu since the World championships here in 2019.  
✓ Kidambi Srikanth exited from the semi-final of the tournament by star Viktor Axelsen.

7. Which Indian wrestler has regained top spot in world ranking recently?

- A) Vinesh Phogat  
B) Bajrang Punia ☒  
C) Yogeshwar Dutt  
D) Sakshi Malik



- ✓ Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia has regained the top spot in the world rankings after he clinched a second successive gold medal at the Matteo Pallicone Ranking Series. In the 65 kg freestyle event final in Rome, he defeated his Mongolian counterpart to win gold. Bajrang Punia also won gold in the tournament last year.

8. How many scholars have been selected for India Science and Research Fellowship (ISRF) 2021?

- A) 2  
B) 5  
C) 17  
D) 40 ☒

40

- ✓ For the India Science and Research Fellowship (ISRF) 2021, 40 scholars have been selected. These research scholars belong to six countries and have been awarded fellowship to conduct research in science and technology in various Indian institutes and universities.  
✓ The selection has been based on the scholar's research proposal, experience, academic merit and publication record.

9. Which country is the host of UN Congress on crime prevention?

- A) India  
B) China  
C) United States of America  
D) Japan ☒



- ✓ The United Nations Congress on crime prevention commenced in Kyoto, Japan. Japan is hosting the congress for the first time since 1970. Key issues pertaining to criminal justice, crime prevention and international cooperation to promote rule of law are placed as agendas for discussion during the meeting.

10. The World Kidney Day is celebrated in which month, across the world?

- A) January
- B) February
- C) March ☒
- D) April



- ✓ The World Kidney Day is celebrated on the second Thursday of the month of March every year, across the world. This year's theme is 'Living Well with Kidney Disease'.
  - ✓ Two international bodies namely the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF) jointly organise the global campaign.
-

1. Which country topped the Economic Freedom Index 2021?

- A) India  
B) Sri Lanka  
C) Singapore ☒  
D) Bhutan



- ✓ Singapore topped the Economic Freedom Index 2021 released by the US think-tank, The Heritage Foundation. With 89.7 points, Singapore is followed by New Zealand in second place, Australia, Switzerland and Ireland in the top-5. India is ranked 26th in Asia-Pacific.

2. 'Dustlik' is a military exercise between India and which country?

- A) France  
B) Myanmar  
C) Uzbekistan ☒  
D) Japan



- ✓ 'Dustlik' is a military exercise between India and Uzbekistan. The second edition of the joint military exercise "Dustlik-2" started at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand. Around 45 military personnel of armies of both the countries are participating in the exercise. The first edition of the joint military exercise was carried out in Tashkent in November 2019.

3. Who is the head of the committee formed to commemorate the 75 years of India's independence?

- A) Prime Minister ☒  
B) President  
C) Home Minister  
D) Defence Minister



- ✓ The Central government formed a committee to commemorate the 75 years of India's independence, headed by the Prime Minister. The committee held its first meeting recently. It will discuss procedures related to activities for the celebrations. The committee consists of 259 members including former President Pratibha Patil, former prime ministers Manmohan Singh and HD Devegowda.

4. When is the International Day of Action for Rivers is observed?

- A) March 10  
B) March 12  
C) March 14 ☒  
D) March 16



- ✓ International Day of Action for Rivers is observed every year on March 14. This year, it is the 24<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Day of Action for Rivers. It is a day dedicated to save, celebrate and make people around us aware about our life-giving source of water. The theme of International Day of Action for Rivers - 2021 is 'Rights of Rivers'.

5. Which telescope is being manufactured in collaboration between NASA, ESA and CSA, as a successor of Hubble Telescope?

- A) James Webb Space Telescope ☒  
B) Kepler Space Telescope  
C) Spitzer Space Telescope  
D) Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite



- ✓ The James Webb Space Telescope is being manufactured in collaboration between European Space Agency (ESA), Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and NASA. It is a successor of NASA's Hubble Telescope

and will complement its discoveries. The telescope is scheduled for launch from French Guiana on an Ariane 5 rocket on 31 October 2021.

6. What is the name of the All-Women's Art Exhibition inaugurated by the Minister of Culture and Tourism?

- A) Nari Shakti  
B) Akshya Patra ☒  
C) Shakti Kala  
D) Nari Samridhi



Ministry of Culture  
Government of India

- ✓ Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the All-Women's Art Exhibition titled 'Akshya Patra'.  
✓ The exhibition was inaugurated at Lalit Kala Akademi on International Women's Day. The exhibition will and showcase more than 250 artworks from over 12 countries.

7. What is the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in India, as per the PLFS and Annual survey by the Labour Bureau?

- A) 27.3%  
B) 37.3%  
C) 47.3% ☒  
D) 57.3%

**47.3%**

- ✓ As per the results of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted during 2017-18 and 2018-19 and the Annual Employment-Unemployment surveys conducted by the Labour Bureau, the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) is 47.3 per cent while the unemployment rate is 5.8 per cent. This information was given by the Union Labour Ministry in the Lok Sabha.

8. 'SMS scrubbing', which was making news recently is related to which organisation?

- A) TRAI ☒  
B) RBI  
C) Telecom Ministry  
D) Finance Ministry



- ✓ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued a guideline that the verification process of every SMS content should be done before it is delivered. The process is known as SMS scrubbing.  
✓ Recently, when the telecom service providers (TSPs) started implementing the second phase of SMS regulation, several unverified and unregistered SMS messages were blocked.

9. National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal is being operated by which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Electronics and IT  
B) Ministry of Home Affairs ☒  
C) Ministry of Defence  
D) Ministry of Law and Justice



MINISTRY OF  
HOME AFFAIRS

- ✓ Ministry of Home Affairs launched the 'National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal' in 2019, to provide a centralised mechanism for online reporting of cybercrime incidents. Recently, the Union Home Ministry announced that a total of 3,17,439 cybercrimes and 5,771 FIRs were registered online through the portal in the last 18 months.

- ✓ Maharashtra and Karnataka registered a significant number of cases.

10. What is the name of the Health reserve fund from the proceeds of Health and Education Cess?

- A) Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi ☒
- B) Pradhan Mantri Arogya Nidhi
- C) Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Swasthya Nidhi
- D) Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Nidhi



- ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN).
- ✓ It is a single non-lapsable Health reserve fund from the proceeds of Health and Education Cess levied under Finance Act, 2007. It ensures that the amount does not lapse at the end of the financial year.



1. Which Indian state/UT has announced to launch special women mohalla clinics?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) New Delhi ☒
- C) Bihar
- D) Gujarat



- ✓ The Delhi government recently announced that special women mohalla clinics will be opened across the city in the next financial year. While presenting the government's annual budget for year 2021-22, Deputy CM and Finance Minister Manish Sisodia announced the scheme, which would offer free gynaecological and other medical care services to women within walking distance from their homes.

2. Which department has launched online 5G certification course for its officials?

- A) Department of Financial Services
- B) Department of Telecommunications ☒
- C) Department of Electronics and IT
- D) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade



- ✓ The Department of Telecommunications has launched the online 5G certification course for its officials.
- ✓ The Department aims to create an in-house pool of 5G experts and policymakers, by launching a twelve-week online course, which will be conducted by National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation & Training, the training arm of the department.

3. Which institution organised a national-level virtual workshop on Asset Monetisation along with Department of Economic Affairs?

- A) NITI Aayog ☒
- B) TERI
- C) FICCI
- D) ASSOCHAM



- ✓ NITI Aayog, along with the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), organized a national-level virtual workshop on asset monetization.
- ✓ The workshop was chaired by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and it included the Chief Secretaries of States and Administrators of Union Territories.

4. Who has been appointed as the Chief of Asset Reconstruction Co India Ltd (ARCIL)?

- A) A K Bhalla
- B) Pallav Mohapatra ☒
- C) G C Murmu
- D) R K Mathur



- ✓ Central Bank of India Former CEO Pallav Mohapatra has been appointed as chief of Asset Reconstruction Co India Ltd (ARCIL). RCIL is India's oldest asset reconstruction company, and it was founded in 2002. Pallav Mohapatra is succeeding Vinayak Bahuguna as the CEO.

5. Which Indian personality has been appointed as the Chairman of the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations?

- A) A K Bhalla
- B) Pallav Mohapatra
- C) G C Murmu ☒
- D) R K Mathur



- ✓ Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, has been appointed Chairman of the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations for the second time in a row for 2021.
- ✓ The panel consists of countries including India, Germany, China, the UK, France, Switzerland, Italy, Indonesia, Russia among others. The UN General Assembly in 1959 established the Panel of External Auditors, with individual external auditors of the United Nations system.

6. What is the name of the third Scorpene-class submarine that has been inducted into the Indian Navy recently?

- A) INS Kanakalata
- B) INS Chennai
- C) INS Kolkata
- D) INS Karanj ☒



- ✓ The Indian Navy has inducted into its fleet INS Karanj - the third Scorpene-class conventional diesel-electric submarine. This has been built by the Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) under its project 75.
- ✓ Under this project, six Scorpene-class submarines are built under technology transfer from France.

7. What is the name given to the proposed celebrations marking 75 years of Indian Independence?

- A) Adi Mahotsav
- B) Independence India
- C) Swathantra India
- D) Amrit Mahotsav ☒



- ✓ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has requested all MPs to be a part of the 'Amrit Mahotsav' which marks the 75 years of Indian Independence. It has been stated that the festival to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Independence would be celebrated across 75 locations of the country for a period of 75 weeks.

8. According to NASA, which lake on earth most resembles the Jezero Crater of Mars?

- A) Pazhaverkadu Lake
- B) Lake Salda ☒
- C) Vembanad Lake
- D) Victoria Lake



- ✓ As per a recent release by NASA, the rock and mineral deposits found on the Turkish Lake Salda, has the closest resemblance to the Jezero Crater of Mars. NASA's spacecraft Perseverance has landed on the Jezero Crater of Mars, which is said to be once flooded with water.

9. The World Consumer Rights Day is observed on which date?

- A) February 12
- B) March 15 ☒
- C) January 16
- D) April 9



- ✓ The World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) is observed every year on March 15 as an occasion of solidarity among consumers for promotion of the rights of consumers and to ensure that consumers are protected from unscrupulous traders and their consumer grievances are redressed. The 2021 theme is "Tackle plastic pollution".

10. As per the recent amendment in the Telecom License norms, which is the designated authority for upgradation of networks?

- A) DoT Secretary
- B) National Cyber Security Coordinator ☒
- C) Telecom Minister
- D) Prime Minister



- ✓ The Central Government amended telecom license norms that will enable it to control the installation of network equipment from non-trusted sources. As per the amendments, telecom operators will be required to take permission from the National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC) for up-gradation of existing networks.
  - ✓ NCSC will be the designated authority that can impose conditions for the procurement of telecom equipment.
-

1. 'APEDA' was established under which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Agriculture  
B) Ministry of Rural Development  
C) Ministry of Commerce and Industry ☒  
D) Ministry of Food Processing



- ✓ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established by the Government of India under the APEDA Act passed by the Parliament in December, 1985. It was set up under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. APEDA recently launched its first virtual trade fair to boost export of agricultural and processed food products.

2. Gahirmatha beach, which was seen in the news recently, is located in which state?

- A) Andhra Pradesh  
B) Odisha ☒  
C) Maharashtra  
D) Gujarat



- ✓ The endangered Olive Ridley female turtles have started arriving at the Gahirmatha beach in Odisha state. It is said to be the world's largest known rookery of these species to lay eggs.  
✓ This phenomenon of converging on the nesting ground for mass laying of eggs is otherwise called "Arribada" in Spanish. Last year, around 4.50 lakh turtles turned up in the beach for mass nesting.

3. As per a recent study, the warming of oceans is proved to have affected the metabolism of which species?

- A) Sea Turtles  
B) Whales  
C) Sharks ☒  
D) Dolphins



- ✓ As per a recent study published in the journal Scientific Reports, the warming of oceans is said to have affected the metabolism of sharks. The sharks reared in the warmest temperatures weighed less than those raised in average temperatures. The baby sharks are at risk of being born smaller, without the energy needed to survive.

4. Where is the Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (IISR) located?

- A) Lucknow ☒  
B) Thanjavur  
C) Varanasi  
D) Sivagangai



- ✓ The ICAR – Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (IISR) is located in Lucknow, in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Ministry of Civil Aviation and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have granted a conditional exemption to IISR to use drones.  
✓ The institute would conduct trials to evaluate drone spraying solution for controlling pest and diseases of sugarcane crop using drones.

5. Which organisation is to commission India's largest floating solar power plant at Telangana?

- A) NHPC  
B) NTPC ☒  
C) REC  
D) BHEL



- ✓ NTPC (Southern Region) is set to commission India's largest floating solar power plant at Ramagundam, Telangana. It is a 100 MW project and will be the single location largest floating solar plant in the country as of now. NTPC is in the process of implementing about 450 MW of solar capacity and 217 MW floating solar capacity.

6. Who has been re-elected as president of the International Olympic Committee?

- A) Thomas Bach ☒  
B) George McNager  
C) Mary Kom  
D) Richard Carrion



- ✓ The German lawyer Thomas Bach has been re-elected as president of the International Olympic Committee. He has been re-elected for a four-year term with the committee. His immediate task would be to successfully conduct the Tokyo Olympics. He won the elections with a majority vote of 93-1.

7. What percentage of customs duty would be levied on import of solar modules in India?

- A) 5%  
B) 10%  
C) 15%  
D) 40% ☒

40%

- ✓ The Government of India has decided to impose a 40% customs duty for import of solar modules and 25% customs duty for import of solar cells to India. This measure has been made to reduce imports and boost the local manufacturing of solar components. The new customs duty would come to force from April 2022.

8. Which Ministry has launched the convergence of the ESI scheme with PM JAY?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs  
B) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
C) Ministry of Labor & Employment ☒  
D) Ministry of Social Justice



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment has launched the convergence of ESI Scheme with Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM JAY) in 113 districts of Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.  
✓ With this convergence, 1.35 crore ESI beneficiaries can avail the benefits of cashless treatments under PM JAY scheme.

9. Which Indian Research Institute has recently won the International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award 2020?

- A) NHPC  
B) NTPC  
C) ICAR ☒  
D) HAL



- ✓ ICAR (Indian Council of Agriculture Research), New Delhi has recently won the International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award 2020. It has been awarded for its commitment to raise awareness about importance of healthy soils.

10. ISRO has partnered with which country's space agency for air quality monitoring using satellite data?

- A) USA  
B) Japan ☒  
C) France  
D) Russia



- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) have decided to partner to undertake activities on rice crop area and air quality monitoring using satellite data. The authorities also reviewed on-going cooperation in earth observation, lunar cooperation, and satellite navigation.  
✓ The countries agreed to explore space situational awareness and professional exchange programme.

1. Which Union Ministry approves PLI scheme for pharmaceuticals?

- A) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers ☒
- B) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- C) Ministry of External Affairs
- D) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas



- ✓ Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry has approved Production Linked Incentive Scheme for promotion of Domestic manufacturing of Key Starting Materials, Drug Intermediates and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients. Earlier the Union Cabinet had approved PLI Scheme for Pharmaceuticals over a period of Financial Year 2020-21 to 2028-29.

2. 'Bharat e Market' is the e-commerce portal launched by which body?

- A) FICCI
- B) KVIC
- C) CAIT ☒
- D) TRIFED



- ✓ Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), launched a mobile application, to onboard vendors for its upcoming e-commerce portal 'Bharat e Market'. The application will enable businesses and service providers to register on the portal and create their own virtual shop. There will be no commission charged for creating their own shop.

3. India recently participated in the first historic virtual summit of which association in March 2021?

- A) BRICS
- B) QUAD ☒
- C) BIMSTEC
- D) G20



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the first historic virtual summit of QUAD leaders along with US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga. The leaders discussed economic & health impacts of Covid-19, combat climate change & address challenges, including in cyberspace, counterterrorism, quality infrastructure investment & humanitarian-assistance, disaster-relief.

4. The 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations were flagged off from which venue?

- A) Sabarmati Ashram ☒
- B) Raj Ghat
- C) Madurai
- D) Red Fort, New Delhi



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the celebration of 75 years of independence 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' by flagging off a symbolic 386-km "Dandi March" from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad to Dandi.
- ✓ The event marked the 91<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the historic salt march led by Mahatma Gandhi. He also launched various other cultural and digital initiatives for the India@75 celebrations.

5. Mahamadou Issoufou, who recently won Africa's top prize for leadership, was the President of which country?

- A) Chad
- B) Namibia
- C) Niger ☒
- D) Sudan



- ✓ Mahamadou Issoufou, who is stepping down as the President of Niger after two terms in office, has won Africa's top prize for leadership. He was awarded the 2020 Ibrahim Prize, for facing significant challenges,

ranging from deep poverty to armed rebellion and desertification in the country.

6. What is "2001 F032" that is seen in news recently?

- A) Space Shuttle
- B) COVID Vaccine
- C) Asteroid ☒
- D) Rare Earth Metal



- ✓ The American space agency NASA has stated that the largest asteroid 2001 F032 would pass by the earth at a very close distance of 1.25 million miles, this year. The asteroid is estimated to be 3,000 feet in diameter and was discovered 20 years ago.

7. Which country is the chair of BRICS 2021?

- A) Brazil
- B) Russia
- C) India ☒
- D) China



- ✓ For the year 2021, India has assumed the chairmanship of BRICS. Recently, BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) held its first meeting under India's chairmanship from March 9 to 11. The theme of this year's BRICS is "BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus".

8. Bhavani Devi is associated with which sport?

- A) Boxing
- B) Fencing ☒
- C) Javelin Throw
- D) Badminton



- ✓ Tamil Nadu's Fencing champion Bhavani Devi has qualified for the Tokyo Olympics to be held this year. She became the first Indian fencer to be qualified for the Olympics. She has been selected by Adjusted Official Ranking Method.
- ✓ The Tokyo Olympics that were to happen in 2020 have been postponed to July 2021 owing to COVID-19 pandemic.

9. Gowsalya Shankar who has been awarded with International Woman of Courage by the US Consulate, belongs to which state?

- A) Tamil Nadu ☒
- B) Kerala
- C) Karnataka
- D) Telangana



- ✓ Gowsalya Shankar belonging to Tamil Nadu has been awarded with the International Woman of Courage (IWOC) Award by the US Consulate in Chennai recently. She has been running a trust named Shankar Social Justice Trust since 2017 which aims to fight atrocities against caste-based violence.

10. National Vaccination Day is observed in which date?

- A) March 15
- B) March 10
- C) March 16 ☒
- D) March 14



- ✓ The National Vaccination Day, also known as National Immunisation Day, is annually observed across India on 16<sup>th</sup> March to create awareness about the importance of vaccination. The government of India aims to raise awareness about the vaccination against poliovirus and other deadly viruses.

- ✓ The National Vaccination day 2021 aims to eradicate both polio and the COVID-19. The day was first observed on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1995, the day on which the 'Pulse Polio' Immunisation Programme became operational.



1. 'Kalanamak Rice Festival' is set to be held in which state?

- A) Assam  
B) Uttar Pradesh ☒  
C) Karnataka  
D) Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced that the state will organise the 'Kalanamak Rice Festival'. Kala Namak Rice, grown in the state, is One District One Product of some Eastern UP districts.  
✓ The state had earlier organised Strawberry Festival in Jhansi and the Jaggery Festival in Lucknow.

2. Which Indian body released the report 'India FinTech: A USD 100 Billion Opportunity'?

- A) ASSOCAM  
B) FICCI ☒  
C) CAIT  
D) NASSCOM



- ✓ The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Boston Consulting Group (BCG) released 'India FinTech: A USD 100 Billion Opportunity' report. The total valuation of India's fintech industry is estimated at USD 50- USD 60 billion. The report sees the fintech industry's valuation at USD 150-160 bn by 2025.

3. Which Union Ministry is set to unveil the draft e-Commerce Policy?

- A) Ministry of Electronics and IT  
B) Ministry of Commerce and Industry ☒  
C) Ministry of Heavy Industries  
D) Ministry of Home Affairs



- ✓ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is set to unveil the draft e-Commerce Policy.  
✓ The policy is expected to lay down the principles for data usage in industrial development. It also aims to put in place protective measures to prevent misuse and access of data by unauthorised persons.

4. India's first centralised Air-Conditioned railway terminal is to come up in which city?

- A) Chennai  
B) Bengaluru ☒  
C) Madurai  
D) Ahmedabad



- ✓ India's first centralised Air-Conditioned railway terminal at the city of Bengaluru is set to be operational soon. It is named after one of the veteran civil engineer Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya. The new coach terminal is planned at Baiyappanahalli in the city and is built at an estimated cost of Rs 314 crore.

5. 'Carbon border agreements', which was making news recently, has been proposed by which global association?

- A) G7  
B) G20  
C) QUAD  
D) European Union ☒



- ✓ The European Commission released the European Green Deal in December 2020 and set a deadline of March 2021 to propose the first-ever European Climate Law. The document highlights plan to implement a carbon border agreement.

6. Who was the Chairperson for the government's Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region?

- A) Injeti Srinivas  
B) MM Kutty ☒  
C) Siddhartha Mohanty  
D) Arundhati Mech



- ✓ The Government of India's "Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region" headed by MM Kutty has been dissolved within five months of its constitution. The commission was set up vide an ordinance in October 2020 and the ordinance has lapsed recently. Hence, it failed to become an act.

7. Who has written the poetry collection "When God is a Traveller"?

- A) Harish Meenakshi  
B) Arundhati Subramaniam ☒  
C) Anamika  
D) R S Bhaskar



- ✓ The poetry collection titled "When God is a Traveller" has been written by this year's Sahitya Akademi Award winner Poet Arundhati Subramaniam. She is among the 20 writers to receive the Sahitya Akademi Award for the year 2020. The list of awards included seven books of poetry, four novels, five short stories, two plays, and one each of memoirs and epic poetry in 20 Indian languages.

8. The 2021 Pi Day is observed on which date?

- A) March 14 ☒  
B) March 15  
C) March 16  
D) March 17



- ✓ 'Pi' day is the day that celebrates the famous mathematical constant  $\pi$ . March 14<sup>th</sup> is observed as 'Pi' day every year.  
✓ According to the American calendar, 3/14 is March 14. This number, i.e., 3.14, also roughly represents  $\pi$ . It is also celebrated on March 14 at 1:59:26. ( $\pi = 3.1415926$ ).

9. Vanvasi Samagam, a tribal congregation was organised in which state?

- A) Madhya Pradesh  
B) Uttar Pradesh ☒  
C) Andhra Pradesh  
D) Odisha



- ✓ A tribal congregation-Vanvasi Samagam was organised in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh. President Ramnath Kovind participated in the congregation as Chief Guest. The President also inaugurated the newly constructed building of Seva Kunj Ashram. The construction of school and hostel buildings were undertaken by NTPC.

10. An advisory committee has been set up to study which Indian river for the next two years, chaired by the Culture Minister?

- A) Saraswati ☒  
B) Sarayu  
C) Mahanadi  
D) Narmada



- ✓ The Centre has reconstituted an advisory committee to create a plan for studying the mythical Sarasvati river for the next two years. The term of the previous panel, which was set up by the Archaeological Survey of India in 2017, ended in 2019. The 27-member panel would include officials from various ministries, archaeologists and other experts.



1. OTPRMS certificates, which was seen in the news recently, is associated with which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Education ☒
- B) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- C) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- D) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development



- ✓ Online Teacher Pupil Registration Management System (OTPRMS) enable the candidates who have passed or undergoing any of the courses under National Council for Teacher Education, to register themselves, in order to be recruited as teachers. The Ministry of Education has decided to link the OTRMS certificates with DigiLocker service, to facilitate free access to the certificates.

2. All India Tourist Vehicles Authorization and Permit Rules, will be applicable from which date?

- A) April 1, 2021 ☒
- B) May 1, 2021
- C) June 1, 2021
- D) August 1, 2021



- ✓ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has announced a new scheme, named 'All India Tourist Vehicles Authorization and Permit Rules, 2021. Under the new set of rules, any tourist vehicle operator may apply for an "All India Tourist Authorization/Permit" through online mode. After required documents are submitted and fees deposited, it will be issued within 30 days of submission of such applications.

3. In which state is the Shetrunjay Hills reserve forest located?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Gujarat ☒
- C) Karnataka
- D) Rajasthan



- ✓ The Shetrunjay Hills reserve forest area is located in the state of Gujarat and is home to a large number of Asiatic Lions. Recently a massive fire broke out in the Shetrunjay Hills reserve forest area and the fire is said to have spread to more than 200 hectares.

4. In which state / UT is the Chenab bridge of Indian Railways being constructed?

- A) Uttarakhand
- B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Jammu & Kashmir ☒
- D) Assam



- ✓ The Chenab Bridge is a steel and concrete arch bridge being constructed by the Indian railways. It is constructed between Bakkal and Kauri of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ When completed, it would be the world's highest bridge. Recently, the Railways has achieved an engineering fete by completing the construction of the arch bottom of the bridge.

5. Where is the headquarters of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) located?

- A) Geneva ☒
- B) Rome
- C) Paris
- D) Nairobi



- ✓ Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) was founded in 1889, to promote peace through parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue. Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) President Mr. Duarte Pacheco visited New Delhi recently and witnessed the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha. IPU has 179 Member of Parliament and 13 Associate Members.

6. The first National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research was established in which state?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Punjab ☒
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Maharashtra



- ✓ The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act, 1998 was enacted to declare the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research at Mohali, Punjab to be an institute of national importance.
- ✓ 6 new institutes in Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Hajipur, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Raebareli were set up during 2007-08. Recently a bill was introduced in Lok Sabha to provide the national importance tag to six institutes.

7. The Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill 2021 seeks to empower Central Government to issue directions to DMF. What is a DMF?

- A) Deposit Mineral Fund
- B) District Mineral Foundation ☒
- C) Deep Mine Fund
- D) District Mine Fund



- ✓ The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2021 was introduced in the Lok Sabha. It amends the Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957. The legislation seeks to remove the distinction between captive and merchant mines.
- ✓ It empowers the Central Government to issue directions on composition and utilisation of funds maintained by the District Mineral Foundation (DMF).

8. 'My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future' is a memoir of which Indian personality?

- A) Kiran Mazumdar Shaw
- B) Indra Nooyi ☒
- C) Sudha Murthy
- D) Shikha Sharma



- ✓ My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future, is the memoir of 65-year-old former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi. It will be published in the month of September 2021 by Portfolio books.
- ✓ It narrates her life from childhood till her becoming one of the world's most powerful women. Indra Nooyi served as the CEO of PepsiCo for 12 years and worked there for 24 years.

9. MPLADS Fund has been suspended till which year, due to COVID-19 pandemic?

- A) 2021
- B) 2022 ☒
- C) 2023
- D) 2024

# 2022

- ✓ The Union Government announced that no new Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) Fund would be provided for 2020–21 and 2021–22 due to the Corona pandemic.
- ✓ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed the Rajya Sabha that the MPLADS Fund for 2019–20 had been released by the Ministry of Finance and sent to the districts.

---

10. Which organisation released the "Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2021"?

- A) ADB
- B) UN ESCAP ☒
- C) IMF
- D) AIIB



- ✓ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) released the 2021 edition of the Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report. As per the report, the region fell short of its 2020 milestones for the Goals, before entering the global pandemic.
- ✓ The Asia-Pacific region is responsible for more than half of the global greenhouse gas emissions.

1. Which ministry has moved the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in the Lok Sabha?

- A) Ministry of Education
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs ☒
- C) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- D) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has recently moved the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in Lok Sabha. This bill seeks to redefine the meaning of "Government of Delhi" as "Lieutenant Governor of Delhi". The bill seeks to give discretionary powers to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi in aspects in which the Legislative Assembly of Delhi is empowered to make laws.

2. Which state has topped in employment generation under MGNREGS during 2020-21?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Goa
- C) Rajasthan ☒
- D) Haryana



- ✓ During the year 2020-21, India as a whole has generated 366 crore person days of work under MGNREGS. This is the highest ever employment generation under the scheme. Among the states, Rajasthan has generated the highest employment of 43 crore person days, which is followed by West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

3. World Recycling Day is observed in which date?

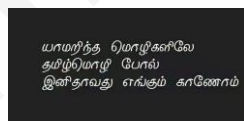
- A) March 18 ☒
- B) April 18
- C) May 18
- D) June 18



- ✓ Global Recycling Day is observed every year on March 18 to create awareness among the masses about the rapid pace at which our natural resources are being used.
- ✓ The day also promotes the concept and practice of recycling. In 2021, the theme of Global Recycling Day is "Recycling Heroes".

4. The World Poetry Day is celebrated on which date?

- A) March 20
- B) March 21 ☒
- C) March 22
- D) March 23



- ✓ World Poetry Day is celebrated on March 21 every year with the aim of promoting the reading, creating and teaching of poetry. Announced during the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1999, the day is celebrated around the world.

5. What is the theme of the 2021 International Day of Happiness?

- A) Share Happiness
- B) Angry Birds Happy Planet
- C) Reclaim Happiness
- D) Happiness for all, forever ☒



- ✓ The International Day of Happiness is observed every year on March 20 to recognize the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world. The day is to inspire individuals to share happiness

with others and create a happier world for all. The 2021 theme is "Happiness for all, forever".

6. World Sparrow Day is observed on which date?

- A) March 20 ☒
- B) March 21
- C) March 22
- D) March 23



- ✓ The World Sparrow Day is observed every year on March 20 to highlight the declining population of the bird due to modern infrastructure, pollution by microwave towers and pesticides and lesser green spaces. The 2021 theme is "I Love Sparrows".
- ✓ It is an international initiative by the Nature Forever Society of India in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) and numerous other international organizations across the world.

7. When is the 2021 World Sleep Day observed?

- A) March 19 ☒
- B) March 20
- C) March 21
- D) March 22



- ✓ The day before the Vernal Equinox of every year is observed as World Sleep Day. This year falls on 19<sup>th</sup> March. It is organised by the World Sleep Day Committee of the World Sleep Society. The 2021 theme is "Regular Sleep, Healthy Future".

8. What is the theme of the 2021 International Day of Forests?

- A) Forests and Water
- B) Forests and Energy
- C) Forests and Sustainable Cities
- D) Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being ☒



- ✓ The International Day of Forests is observed every year on March 21 to provide a platform to raise awareness of the importance of all types of woodlands and trees and celebrate the ways in which they sustain and protect us. The 2021 theme is "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being".

9. What is the theme of the 2021 World Water Day?

- A) Why Waste Water?
- B) Valuing Water ☒
- C) Water is Life
- D) Better Water, Better Jobs



The World Water Day is observed every year on 22 March to raise awareness about the importance of water. The 2021 theme "Valuing Water". The day is about focusing on the importance of water and the need to preserve it.

10. What is the upper limit to permit abortion to special categories of women, as per the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill, 2020?

- A) 20 weeks
- B) 24 weeks ☒
- C) 28 weeks
- D) 32 weeks



- ✓ Rajya Sabha passed the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020, to raise the upper limit for permitting abortions from the present 20 weeks to 24 weeks.
  - ✓ This limit is applicable for special categories of women including rape survivors, victims of incest, minors and the differently-abled. The bill was passed by Lok Sabha about a year ago.
-

1. Who has been appointed as the Director General of National Security Guard?

- A) Swapan Dasgupta  
B) M. A. Ganapathy ☒  
C) P.K. Sinha  
D) A P Maheshwari



- ✓ Senior IPS officer M.A Ganapathy was appointed as the Director General of National Security Guard (NSG). The 1986 batch officer is currently serving as the Director General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS). Another IPS officer Kuldip Singh was appointed as the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force.

2. The tenth schedule, known as the Anti-defection law was added in the constitution in which year?

- A) 1972  
B) 1985 ☒  
C) 1992  
D) 2005



- ✓ The Tenth Schedule, popularly known as the anti-defection law, was added to the Constitution in the year 1985. As per the anti-defection law, Nominated MP Swapan Dasgupta resigned from Rajya Sabha, a year before completion of his term.
- ✓ He has been named as candidate in the West Bengal Assembly elections. After his nomination to Rajya Sabha in 2016, he did not join a political party within the mandatory period of six months.

3. PK Sinha, who was making news recently stepped down from which position?

- A) Economic Affairs Secretary  
B) Principal Advisor to PM ☒  
C) Finance Secretary  
D) NITI Aayog CEO



- ✓ The Prime Minister's Principal adviser, PK Sinha, recently stepped down from his position. In the first tenure of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government, he served as the Cabinet secretary.

4. India's envoy in which country has handed over training kits worth Rs 81 lakhs, for capacity building?

- A) Nepal  
B) Myanmar  
C) Maldives  
D) Sri Lanka ☒



- ✓ India's envoy in Sri Lanka has recently handed over training aids worth about Rs 81,00,000 to the country's Navy for capacity building. High Commissioner Gopal Baglay formally handed over the training aids, during a visit to the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka.
- ✓ He also handed over Kindle e-book readers and books to the library of the Naval and Maritime Academy.

5. Where is the Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India (HHEC) located?

- A) New Delhi  
B) Uttar Pradesh ☒  
C) Gujarat  
D) Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ The Cabinet recently approved the closure of Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India (HHEC), located at Noida, Uttar Pradesh. HHEC is a government-owned company under the administrative control of the Union Textile ministry. It is said to have incurred losses since 2015-16 continuously.
- ✓ The employees in the company will be given the option of Voluntary Retirement.

6. Which institution publishes the 'State of the World's Indigenous People' report?

- A) World Bank  
B) International Monetary Fund  
C) United Nations ☒  
D) Asian Development Bank



- ✓ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) publishes the latest edition of the State of the World's Indigenous People report. As per the report, the world's indigenous peoples live in areas around 80% of the planet's biodiversity.
- ✓ But many of them still struggle to maintain their legal rights to lands and resources.

7. Where is the headquarters of the 'Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure' located?

- A) Geneva  
B) Paris  
C) New Delhi ☒  
D) Jakarta



- ✓ The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure is a global coalition of countries, UN agencies, multilateral development banks, private sector, and academia, that aims to promote disaster-resilient infrastructure. It is headquartered in New Delhi. CDRI, in partnership with member countries and institutions, hosted the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure – ICDRI 2021.

8. Under which project, CSIR is set to map genetic diversity in the Indian Ocean?

- A) Project IOR  
B) Project Bio  
C) Project TraceBioMe ☒  
D) Project 21



- ✓ Under the Project TraceBioMe, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR–NIO) – Goa has initiated to map the genetic diversity of organisms in the Indian Ocean. The project involves large scale sampling of water, sediments, planktons and various organisms in different location of the ocean to arrive at the genetic map.

9. Where or using which mode was the IBSA (India Brazil South Africa) Women's Forum meeting held?

- A) India  
B) China  
C) Brazil  
D) Virtual Mode ☒



- ✓ The IBSA (India Brazil South Africa) Women's Forum meeting was held recently in a virtual format. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the meet.
- ✓ The delegation from India was led by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development. A joint declaration was issued during the meet.



which highlights IBSA goals and commitments for achieving gender equality in all spheres of life.

---

10. Pritzker Prize is associated with which field?

- A) Literature
- B) Journalism
- C) Architecture ☒
- D) Science & Technology



- ✓ Pritzker Prize is the highest international honour given in the field of Architecture. The 2021 Pritzker Architecture Prize, has been granted to Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal.
  - ✓ The French duo winners are the founders of Lacaton & Vassal. Chairman of The Hyatt Foundation announced the winners and Anne Lacaton became the first French female architect to ever win the award.
-

1. What is the name of the telemedicine service offered by the Union Health Ministry?

- A) e-Aarogya
- B) e-Swasthya
- C) e-Suraksha
- D) e-Sanjeevani ☒



- ✓ The Union Health Ministry's tele-medicine service called e-Sanjeevani is operational in 31 States/Union Territories. The digital service has crossed a recent milestone of 3 million consultations, with an average of 35000 patients across the country. The Service includes two variants: one for doctor to doctor and one for outpatient services. Tamil Nadu tops the number of consultations.

2. Which aircraft of the Indian Air Force met with a fatal accident and crashed in Central India?

- A) MiG-21 Bison ☒
- B) Mirage 2000
- C) Sukhoi Su-30
- D) Rafale



- ✓ A MiG-21 Bison aircraft of the Indian Air Force was involved in a fatal accident, while taking off for a combat training mission at an airbase in central India. The IAF Group Captain Ashish Gupta died in the accident. The indigenously designed and manufactured Light Combat Aircraft Tejas were to replace the ageing fleet of the MiG 21. The MiG 21s have been continuously involved in accidents.

3. Who is the head of the experts advisory committee set up for the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme?

- A) Injeti Srinivas
- B) Gita Gopinath
- C) H K Mittal ☒
- D) S C Khuntia



- ✓ The government has constituted an experts advisory committee for the overall execution and monitoring of the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme. As per the DPIIT, the committee would be chaired by H K Mittal from the Department of Science and Technology. The other members are from DPIIT, Department of biotechnology, science and technology, electronics and IT, NITI Aayog, and experts from startup ecosystem.

4. Which Indian public sector bank has incorporated a new wholly owned subsidiary for its credit card business?

- A) Union Bank of India
- B) Punjab National Bank ☒
- C) Indian Bank
- D) Canara Bank



- ✓ Punjab National Bank has recently incorporated PNB Cards & Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of the bank. This new entity will carry out non-financial support service related to the credit card business of the bank. PNB Cards & Services has authorised capital of ₹25 crore and paid-up capital of ₹15 crore. The Bank has merged United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce with itself.

5. The newly formed Indian Oil Corporation- Phinergy JV is to replace lithium with which metal, to make batteries for electric vehicles?

- A) Silver
- B) Copper
- C) Aluminium ☒
- D) Mercury



- ✓ State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Israeli battery developer Phinergy formed a joint venture to manufacture ultra-lightweight metal-air batteries for electric vehicles (EVs).
- ✓ The joint venture will replace lithium with aluminium to make batteries that will charge faster and work for a longer time. The first customers of the company are Maruti Suzuki and Ashok Leyland. IOC had acquired a minority stake in Phinergy Ltd last year.

6. Which country has rolled out larger-denomination banknotes due to hyperinflation?

- A) Iran
- B) Venezuela ☒
- C) Sudan
- D) Nigeria



- ✓ Venezuela has recently rolled out larger-denomination banknotes due to hyperinflation. The bolivar currency of the South American country is losing its value tremendously. Bills worth 200,000 and 500,000 bolivars, which are worth just 10 and 27 US cents, respectively, began to circulate in the country. Venezuela's central bank has also planned to roll a bill worth 1 million bolivars, worth just 50 US cents.

7. What is the name for the process of capturing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and converting it into solar fuel, called?

- A) Artificial photosynthesis ☒
- B) Natural photosynthesis
- C) Energy Conversion
- D) Energy Production



- ✓ Recently, researchers from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) have developed a system that can capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and convert it into solar fuel. This process is called Artificial Photosynthesis (AP). This process produces oxygen as by product. This process is said to mitigate the harmful effects of emissions made by use of fossil fuels.

8. As per which policy, more than 20-year-old personal vehicles would be de registered from June 1 2024?

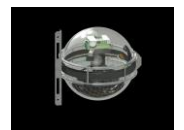
- A) New Vehicle Policy
- B) Emission Control Policy
- C) Bharat Stage - 7
- D) Vehicle Scrapping Policy ☒



- ✓ As per the new Vehicle Scrapping Policy announced by the Union Ministry of Road Transport, more than 20 years old personal vehicles would be de registered from June 1 2024, in case they fail in automated physical fitness test. In case of commercial vehicles, 15 years old vehicles would be de registered from April 1 2023.

9. What is "Baikal-GVD" that has been in news recently?

- A) Space Shuttle
- B) Russian Telescope ☒
- C) Cryptocurrency
- D) New Planet



- ✓ Scientists from Russia have developed and deployed a telescope named "Baikal-GVD". The telescope has been placed into the depths of Lake Baikal in southern Siberia, which is the deepest lake known in earth. Using this telescope, Scientists are in search of Neutrinos - the tiniest known particles in the universe.

10. In which country, the world's first baby with antibodies against the novel coronavirus is reported to be born?

- A) Russia
- B) USA ☒
- C) Brazil
- D) Italy



- ✓ It has been reported that the world's first baby with antibodies against the novel coronavirus is born in the USA. The mother was vaccinated against COVID-19 during 36<sup>th</sup> week of her pregnancy which resulted in development of antibodies in both mother and the baby.
-

1. What is the cost of LED bulbs under the GRAM UJALA Programme, launched by Convergence Energy Services Ltd?

- A) Rs.5  
B) Rs.10 ☒  
C) Rs.25  
D) Re.1



- ✓ A new scheme GRAM UJALA Programme for providing LED bulbs at a price of Rs.10 per bulb has been launched by Power and New and renewable energy minister Raj Kumar Singh. The scheme has been launched from Bihar. These bulbs are priced lowest in the world and are manufactured by Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL) - a subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL).

2. Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), that was seen in news, is a public sector enterprise under which Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting ☒  
B) Ministry of Home Affairs  
C) Ministry of Power  
D) Ministry of Textiles



- ✓ Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL) is a central public sector enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The CPSE was seen in news as it has recently released a tender that invited agencies to provide solutions and services related to fact verification and detection of misinformation on social media platforms. BECIL seeks to empanel the agencies.

3. What is India's rank in the World Happiness Report 2021?

- A) 139 ☒  
B) 145  
C) 108  
D) 5

139

- ✓ The World Happiness Report 2021 has been released recently by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.  
✓ The report measures the well-being by relying on three main indicators: life evaluations, positive emotions, and negative emotions. Out of 149 countries, India has been ranked at 139. Finland is adjudged as the world's happiest country as per the report.

4. India recently launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI) research and development initiative with which country?

- A) Japan  
B) France  
C) USA ☒  
D) Finland



- ✓ The Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) launched the US India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI) initiative, in the presence of the Department of Science & Technology Secretary. IUSSTF is a bilateral organisation established by the two countries in 2000, to promote Science, Technology and innovation through mutual interactions. Under the USIAI initiative, new R&D areas and opportunities will be identified.

5. The Indian Navy inducted a landing craft utility ship L58, built by which organisation?

- A) DRDO  
B) ISRO  
C) GRSE ☒  
D) HAL



- ✓ The Indian Navy inducted a landing craft utility ship L58 at an event in Port Blair. It is the eighth and last of the landing craft utility (LCU) mark-IV class ship. The ship was indigenously designed and built by

state-run Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Kolkata. It will be used for several activities like transporting battle tanks and heavy weapons systems.

6. Indian Navy carried out Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with which country in the Persian Gulf under Operation Sankalp?

- A) UAE  
B) Qatar  
C) Bahrain ☒  
D) Oman



- ✓ Indian Navy carried out Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Royal Bahrain Naval Force in the Persian Gulf under Operation Sankalp. PASSEXs are conducted regularly by the Indian Navy with the navies of friendly foreign countries. Maritime Security Operations, code-named Op Sankalp were initiated in the Gulf in 2019.

7. As per the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021, what is the new FDI limit in the insurance sector?

- A) 26%  
B) 49%  
C) 74% ☒  
D) 100%

74%

- ✓ The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was approved by the Rajya Sabha recently. It seeks to increase foreign direct investment limit in the insurance sector to 74 per cent from the current 49 per cent. As per the bill, majority of those in board of directors and key management persons would be resident Indians, with at least 50 per cent of directors being independent directors.

8. NITI Aayog has partnered with which technology major to train students on Cloud Computing?

- A) HP  
B) Amazon ☒  
C) Samsung  
D) Huawei



- ✓ NITI Aayog has partnered with IT major Amazon Web Services (AWS) to train students on the fundamentals of cloud computing through Atal Tinkering Labs. Under the program, AWS will introduce the concepts of cloud computing such as cloud storage, web hosting, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and virtual reality (VR) to students.

9. Which institution developed the 'Energy Swaraj Yatra' bus?

- A) IIT Bombay ☒  
B) IIT Madras  
C) IIT Guwahati  
D) IISc, Bangalore



- ✓ The Union Education Minister Shri. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' took a ride in the Energy Swaraj Yatra' bus. This bus has been designed and developed by Dr Chetan Singh Solanki, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay. It is a vehicle that runs on solar energy.

10. Which organisation has extended its support for India's H2Ooooh! - Waterwise Program?

- A) World Bank  
B) UNESCO ☒  
C) UNICEF  
D) OECD



- ✓ UNESCO has partnered with United Schools Organization India (USO India), Water Digest magazine and Toonz Media Group for water conservation awareness programme.

- ✓ The H2Ooooh! - Waterwise Program is conducted for school students, in partnership with National Mission for Clean Ganga. The animation videos created by students will be launched on March 22, the World Water Day.

1. SAAMAR campaign has been launched by which state?

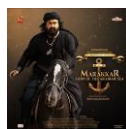
- A) Bihar
- B) Jharkhand ☒
- C) Haryana
- D) Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ The state Government of Jharkhand launched a campaign named SAAMAR (Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anaemia Reduction). It aims to tackle malnutrition in the state by identifying anaemic women and malnourished children.
- ✓ It would converge various state departments and agencies to effectively reduce anaemia in the state.

2. Which Indian film won the 'Best Feature Film' award in the 67<sup>th</sup> National Film Awards?

- A) Asuran
- B) Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea ☒
- C) Otha Seruppu
- D) Soorai Potru



- ✓ The 67<sup>th</sup> National Film Awards were announced to honour the films from the year of 2019. The event was organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- ✓ Director Priyadarshan's Malayalam war epic Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea, starred by Mohanlal, won the Best Feature Film. The best actor award was given to Manoj Bajapayee for Bhonsle, Dhanush for Tamil film Asuran.

3. Which country is to conduct airborne radar surveys to estimate the thickness of Himalayan glaciers?

- A) Nepal
- B) India ☒
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Russia



- ✓ India is set to conduct airborne radar surveys to estimate the thickness of Himalayan glaciers. A pilot study is to be conducted in Lahaul-Spiti basin of Himachal Pradesh. After the pilot project, similar studies will be conducted in Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra sub-basins.
- ✓ National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Ministry of Earth Sciences proposed this survey.

4. Which state has recently launched 'Dial 112' ERSS and State Emergency Response Centre?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Karnataka
- C) Odisha ☒
- D) Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched 'Dial 112' Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) worth Rs 157-cr. People can call the toll-free number for all emergency services including police, fire and health in the state.
- ✓ The State Emergency Response Centre and the emergency response vehicles fitted with mobile data terminals were also inaugurated.

5. As per the National Accounts Statistics 2021, the private final consumption expenditure of which sector had the steepest rise?

- A) Education
- B) Restaurants
- C) Health ☒
- D) Alcoholic Beverages



- ✓ As per the National Accounts Statistics (NAS) 2021, released by MoSPI, the private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) on health, education and restaurants recorded an increase in 2019-20.
- ✓ The highest increase is recorded in the field of health at 9.5%, followed by education and restaurants. The PFCE on Alcoholic beverages, clothing and foot wear recorded a steep fall during the said period.

6. When is the International Day of Happiness celebrated across the world, as proclaimed by the UN?

- A) March 18
- B) March 20 ☒
- C) March 22
- D) March 24



- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly, in the year 2012, proclaimed 20 March the International Day of Happiness. It has been celebrated across the world since 2013, to recognise the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world.
- ✓ This year, Finland was declared the happiest country in the world, as per the World Happiness report.

7. Which organisation has launched 'Sahi Disha' campaign to promote women's entrepreneurship in rural India?

- A) World Bank
- B) UN Development Program ☒
- C) Asian Development Bank
- D) New Development Bank



- ✓ The United Nations Development Program-UNDP has launched 'Sahi Disha' campaign to promote women's livelihoods and entrepreneurship in rural India. The initiative is a five-year collaboration between UNDP and the IKEA Foundation. It has already supported one million women to access job and livelihood opportunities across five states including Delhi NCR and Maharashtra.

8. INSACOG Consortium is in the news recently. What does IN stand for?

- A) Integrated
- B) Indian ☒
- C) Inspection
- D) Innovation



- ✓ INSACOG stands for Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium. It has been set up by the Government of India for surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 across the country. The consortium is made up of 10 Regional Genome Sequencing Laboratories (RGLs) present in Bhubaneswar, Pune, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and New Delhi.



9. Sharath Kamal, Sathiyan, Sutirtha Mukherjee who were in the news recently for qualifying for the Olympics, are the players of which sports?

- A) Badminton
- B) Table Tennis ☒
- C) Wrestling
- D) Fencing



- ✓ In the Asian Olympic Qualification tournament held recently in Doha four Indian Table Tennis players sealed Tokyo Olympic seats. Veteran paddler Sharath Kamal will participate in the Olympics for the fourth time. Other three players are G Sathiyan, Manika Batra and Sutirtha Mukherjee.

10. Who is set to be head of the Government committee for manufacturing in the high technology area?

- A) Nirmala Sitharaman
- B) Piyush Goyal ☒
- C) Rajnath Singh
- D) Narendra Modi



- ✓ The Government of India is set to form an empowered committee for manufacturing in high technology areas. As per the official notification, the committee is to be headed by Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal. This move is expected to improve investments and promote manufacturing in technology intensive sectors.

1. NDHM Sandbox environment has been seen in the news recently. What does H in NDHM stand for?

- A) Health ☒
- B) Horticulture
- C) Hurricane
- D) Hospital



- ✓ NDHM stands for National Digital Health Mission. NDHM sandbox is open to everyone from Health care providers to app builders. The sandbox service of NDHM hosts the building block environment that are useful to any one who wishes to create software services and apps meant to be integrated with NDHM services.

2. 'Threadit' is a standalone website created by which tech major?

- A) Intel
- B) Microsoft
- C) Samsung
- D) Google ☒



- ✓ Threadit is a standalone website that has been created by Google for its workspaces. This new tool has been built to make remote working more efficient. Threadit enables users to record and send small videos to team members on work related issues. It has been developed in lines of Tik Tok.

3. Which organisation has inaugurated 3 space incubator centres at NITs?

- A) NASA
- B) DRDO
- C) ISRO ☒
- D) BARC



- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has recently inaugurated three space incubation technology centres in NIT – Nagpur, Bhopal and Rourkela. This is aimed to encourage and give a platform for space entrepreneurs in India. ISRO has already opened three such centres at NIT Agartala, Trichy and Jalandhar.

4. "Pabbi-Antiterror-2021", a joint anti-terrorism exercise is to be held by which organisation?

- A) United Nations
- B) SCO ☒
- C) BIMSTEC
- D) ASEAN



- ✓ Members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) including India, Pakistan and China will hold a joint anti-terrorism exercise this year. The joint exercise 'Pabbi-Antiterror-2021' was announced during the 36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure held in Uzbekistan. SAARC is an 8-membered multilateral association headquartered at Kathmandu.

5. Where was the 116<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission between India and Pakistan held?

- A) Lahore
- B) New Delhi ☒
- C) Jaipur
- D) Jalandar



- ✓ The 116<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission meeting between India and Pakistan was held recently in New Delhi. This meeting took place after a gap of more than two and half years.
- ✓ This meeting coincided with the National Day of Pakistan. It is a 2-day meeting which on the Indian side is headed by Indus Water Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Saxena.

6. What is the theme of "International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2021"?

- A) Disqualify Racism
- B) Racial profiling and incitement to hatred, including in the context of migration
- C) Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies
- D) Youth standing up against racism ☒



- ✓ The United Nations observes March 21 as International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to raise awareness about equality and to end all forms of racism and racial discrimination. The theme for International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2021 is "Youth standing up against racism".

7. When is the World Meteorological Day observed every year?

- A) March 20
- B) March 21
- C) March 22
- D) March 23 ☒



- ✓ Every year, World Meteorological Day is observed on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. It commemorates the formation of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on March 23, 1950. This day also highlights the role played by humans and organizations in protecting Earth's atmosphere. The theme for 2021 World Meteorological Day is, "The Ocean, Our Climate and Weather".

8. When is the World Tuberculosis Day observed every year?

- A) March 21
- B) March 22
- C) March 23
- D) March 24 ☒



- ✓ Every year, the World Health Organisation commemorates World Tuberculosis Day on March 24, to raise awareness among the general public about the disease.
- ✓ On the same day in 1882, Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes Tuberculosis. This year, the theme of the World Tuberculosis Day is "The Clock is Ticking".

9. When the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed?

- A) March 23
- B) March 24
- C) March 25 ☒
- D) March 26



- ✓ Every year on 25<sup>th</sup> March, the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed by the United Nations. This day remembers those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system. It also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice. The 2021 is, "Ending Slavery's Legacy of Racism: A Global Imperative for Justice".

10. When the International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed?

- A) March 23
- B) March 24
- C) March 25 ☒
- D) March 26



- ✓ Every year on the March 25<sup>th</sup>, "International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members" is observed by the United Nations. It is marked every year on the anniversary of abduction of a former journalist – Alec Collett. He was working for the UN – Relief and Works Agency in Palestine when he was abducted by armed gunman in 1985.
-

1. Which PSU has launched an e trading portal named "PRANIT"?

- A) Power Grid ☒
- B) NTPC
- C) HAL
- D) IOL



- ✓ The Union Power Ministry's Maharatna PSU – Power Grid has launched an e-tendering portal – "PRANIT". This portal is aimed to make the tendering process by power grid more transparent and decreases the paperwork in the process. This portal has been certified by Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certification Directorate (STQC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

2. PEPSU Muzara movement was a farmers' movement that happened in which Indian state?

- A) Karnataka
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Punjab ☒
- D) Himachal Pradesh



- ✓ The Muzara movement had started in the 1930s in Punjab villages. The province was called PEPSU after Independence before being named Punjab. Muzara means landless farmers who worked on someone's land. This movement was started to take ownership rights of the land after tilling it for years. Finally, people got ownership rights in 1952 after paying one-time compensation. The movement was remembered in Punjab and farmer protest sites in New Delhi recently.

3. Which state shares a 510-kilometer border with Myanmar?

- A) Assam
- B) Mizoram ☒
- C) Manipur
- D) Meghalaya



- ✓ Mizoram shares a 510-kilometer border with Myanmar. The Chief Minister of Mizoram Zoramthanga asked the Centre to grant political asylum to "political refugees" from Myanmar. Earlier, the Home Ministry had directed that State governments have no powers to grant refugee status to any foreigner and India is not a signatory to the United Nations Refugee Convention of 1951 and its 1967 Protocol.

4. 2011 Istanbul Convention, which was making news recently, is associated with which issue?

- A) Domestic violence and Gender Equality ☒
- B) Climate Change
- C) Financial Inclusion
- D) Non-Communicable Disease



- ✓ The Council of Europe accord, created in Istanbul, pledged to prevent, prosecute and eliminate domestic violence and promote equality. Turkey President Tayyip Erdogan pulled Turkey out of an international accord designed to protect women.
- ✓ However, people who see the pact as key to combating rising domestic violence, have been expressing their concerns.

5. Divyansh Singh Panwar and Elavenil Valarivan, who were in the news recently, are associated with which sports?

- A) Tennis
- B) Shooting ☒
- C) Athletics
- D) Table Tennis



- ✓ India's young shooters Divyansh Singh Panwar and Elavenil Valarivan won the gold medal in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event at the ISSF World Cup, which is being held in Delhi.
- ✓ Another Indian shooter Ganemat Sekhon won the bronze medal in the women's Skeet event. Earlier, the Indian women and men's teams won gold medals in the 10m Air Pistol events at the ongoing ISSF World Cup being held in New Delhi.

6. 'Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko', the first indigenous knowledge system school, has been inaugurated at which state?

- A) Odisha
- B) Arunachal Pradesh ☒
- C) West Bengal
- D) Mizoram



- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has inaugurated the state's 1<sup>st</sup> formal indigenous language and knowledge system school.
- ✓ Named as 'Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko', the school will help in promoting and preserving indigenous traditions, culture and language. Rs 3 crore has been allocated for the development and maintenance of the school.

7. Which country is to hold the 'Group Arabian Sea Warfare Exercise' near Gulf of Oman?

- A) India
- B) USA ☒
- C) China
- D) Japan



- ✓ The US Navy announced that it is set to hold a major naval exercise along with Belgium, France and Japan in the Mideast.
- ✓ The 'Group Arabian Sea Warfare Exercise' will include ships from the four countries to conduct drills in the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman. This exercise has been planned amid tensions over the nuclear programme of Iran in the region.

8. Which day is celebrated by the UN this year on March 21, with the theme "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being"?

- A) International Day of Insects
- B) International Day of Species
- C) International Day of Forests ☒
- D) International Day of Trees



- ✓ March 21 is observed by the United Nations as the International Day of Forests. This day commemorates the importance of green forest cover around the world. The theme for this year's International Day of Forests is "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being". This day was first proclaimed by UN in 2012.

9. Which Union Ministry is set to implement the Ken-Betwa project?

- A) Ministry of Defense
- B) Ministry of Jal Shakti ☒
- C) Ministry of Home Affairs
- D) Ministry of Environment



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Jal Sakthi is all set to implement the first river interlinking project in India – Ken Betwa Project. The project aims to link Ken river in Madhya Pradesh with Betwa in Uttar Pradesh.

- ✓ The Ministry has sought for Public Investment Board's approval for implementing the project as a national project.

10. Which institution is to assist the states/UTs in preparing the annual export ranking index of districts?

- A) NITI Aayog  
B) Commerce Ministry ☒  
C) Planning Commission  
D) National Development Council



- ✓ The Union Commerce and Industry Ministry announced that the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) will assist states and union territories to prepare an annual export ranking index of different districts. The index will rank each district on its export competitiveness. A district export action plan that will include identification of goods and services with export potential in the district.



1. Which Indian organisation demonstrated 'Free space quantum communication' for the first time?

- A) HAL  
B) BEL  
C) ISRO ☒  
D) DRDO



- ✓ For the first time, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has recently demonstrated free-space quantum communication over a distance of 300 m. It demonstrated live videoconferencing using quantum-key-encrypted signals.
- ✓ The free-space Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) was demonstrated at Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad.

2. Which country is holding its 4<sup>th</sup> parliamentary election in the last two years?

- A) Venezuela  
B) Tanzania  
C) Israel ☒  
D) Chile



- ✓ Israel held its 4<sup>th</sup> parliamentary election in the last two years. The exit polls conducted did not show any clear winner. This election was triggered in December 2020, when the country's parliament failed to agree a budget. It ended a seven-month power sharing arrangement between Netanyahu and his main rival Benny Gantz.

3. Which country successfully launched 38 foreign satellites from 18 countries using its Soyuz-2.1, a carrier rocket?

- A) China  
B) Japan  
C) Russia ☒  
D) UAE



- ✓ Russia successfully launched 38 foreign satellites from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The satellites were from 18 countries including South Korea, Japan and Germany. The Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket placed all 38 spacecraft in the orbit. Among the satellites was the Challenge-1, the first satellite made completely in Tunisia.

4. The Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Cooperation between which country in water cooperation?

- A) Nepal  
B) Japan ☒  
C) Australia  
D) Germany



- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed between the Jal Shakti Ministry of India and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan. The MoC was signed for development of a long-term cooperation in the field of Water and Delta management. It also encourages implementation of joint projects between the two countries and exchange of information, knowledge, technology and scientific allied experience.

5. Which international organisation has released the report titled 'COVID-19 and Tourism'?

- A) NITI Aayog  
B) NCAER  
C) UNCTAD ☒  
D) TERI



- ✓ The United Nations trade and development body, UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) has recently

released a report 'COVID-19 and Tourism'. As per the report, the world's tourism sector could lose at least USD 1.2 trillion or 1.5% of the global gross domestic product (GDP).

- ✓ If the break in international tourism lasts for 8 months, the loss could rise to USD 2.2 trillion or 2.8% of the global GDP.

6. Which Union Ministry is set to launch Poshan Abhiyan for the Elderly?

- A) Ministry of Women & Child Development  
B) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment ☒  
C) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
D) Ministry of Rural Development



- ✓ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announced that it aims to launch a Poshan Abhiyan for the Elderly. The Gram Panchayats and Urban Municipalities are the implementing agencies of the Scheme. It will provide nutrition support to the elders, who are not staying in the Old Age Homes and are victims of severe malnutrition.

7. What is the title of the UN World Water Development Report 2021?

- A) Valuing Water ☒  
B) Water and Sanitation for All  
C) Water is Prime  
D) Water during COVID



- ✓ Every year, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March is celebrated by the United Nations as World Water Day. The main focus for celebrating this day is "support the achievement of sustainable development goal (SDG) 6 – water and sanitation for all by 2030". A resolution in this regard has been passed by the UN General Assembly on Dec 22, 1992.

8. Who are the heads of two high level task forces formed by the Government of India to lay roadmaps for enforcement of contracts and conciliation mechanisms?

- A) Narendra Modi & Rajnath Singh  
B) Nirmala Sitharaman & Amit Shah  
C) Rajiv Kumar & Amitabh Kant ☒  
D) Y M Deosthalee & Urjit Patel



- ✓ The Government of India has set up two high-level task forces to lay roadmap for enforcement of contracts and conciliation mechanisms respectively. One of the task forces is headed by NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar and the other is being chaired by the NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant. These task forces are aimed to fast-track implementation of infra development in the country.

9. Which state / UT has lowered the age for alcohol consumption from 25 to 21?

- A) Uttar Pradesh  
B) Madhya Pradesh  
C) Delhi ☒  
D) Rajasthan



- ✓ The Government of Delhi has approved its new excise policy. Under the policy, the minimum age for alcohol and liquor consumption in Delhi has been reduced from 25 years to 21 years.

- ✓ This has been implemented based on the recommendations of a panel set up by the Government of Delhi.

10. With reference to Defence, what was 'Vajra', that was seen in news recently?

- A) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- B) Offshore patrol vessel ☒
- C) Anti-Tank Guided Missile
- D) Remote Controlled Gun



- ✓ Indian Coast Guard ship Vajra, the offshore patrol vessel was formally commissioned into service. It was indigenously designed and built by Larsen and Toubro.
  - ✓ This is the sixth of the seven offshore patrol vessels. The ship is fit with state-of-the-art navigation and communication systems including Stabilised Remote-Controlled Gun and Pollution response equipment.
-

1. Which country is set to re-establish the Homeland Security Dialogue with India?

- A) Japan  
B) USA ☒  
C) United Kingdom  
D) Russia



- ✓ India and the U.S. have recently agreed to re-establish the U.S.- India Homeland Security Dialogue, as per the announcement of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Dialogue aims to discuss important issues such as cybersecurity and emerging technology. It also aims to address violent extremism. The first Homeland Security Dialogue between the two countries was held in 2011.

2. The Union Minister of Education has inaugurated the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak in which state/UT?

- A) Punjab  
B) New Delhi ☒  
C) Uttar Pradesh  
D) Haryana



- ✓ The University of Delhi organized a programme to commemorate 90 years of martyrdom of the leaders: Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru on 'Shaheed Diwas'.  
✓ Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' virtually inaugurated the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak. The existing collection of books on freedom fighters in the Bhagat Singh Smarak has been announced to be converted into "Shaheed Smriti Pustakalaya".

3. Which global rating agency releases report titled 'Global Economic Outlook' GEO?

- A) Fitch Ratings ☒  
B) CRISIL  
C) Standard & Poor  
D) Ind-RA



- ✓ American credit rating agency Fitch releases the report titled 'Global Economic Outlook GEO'. In its recent edition, it has revised India's GDP growth estimate to 12.8% for next fiscal. Earlier, the ratings agency had estimated a growth rate of 11%. The reasons stated are a stronger carryover effect, a looser fiscal stance, and better virus containment. Fitch also expects GDP growth to ease to 5.8% in Fiscal Year 2023.

4. Which Indian state has recorded a huge decline in the incidence of Tuberculosis, at a rate of 7.5%?

- A) Tamil Nadu  
B) Kerala ☒  
C) Maharashtra  
D) Himachal Pradesh



- ✓ In the state of Kerala, the estimated incidence of tuberculosis (TB) went down by 37.5% between 2015-20. With this, the southern state has registered an annual decline rate of 7.5%. As the global reduction rate would only be 2-3% and hence the state's reduction rate is very significant. The state has also won the bronze medal in the Health Ministry's Certification of Efforts Towards Elimination of TB.

5. What is the rank of India in the latest International Intellectual Property (IP) Index?

- A) 20  
B) 30  
C) 40 ☒  
D) 50

40

- ✓ India has been ranked 40 on the latest annual edition of the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index. The IP index is released annually by the US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC). It assesses the Intellectual Property rights in 53 global economies in several areas from patent and copyright policies to commercialisation of IP assets etc.

6. What is "Manyamkonda Jatara", that is seen in the news recently?

- A) Ancient Harappan Site  
B) Buddhist Vihara  
C) Interstate Religious Festival ☒  
D) Pre-Independence Movement



- ✓ Manyamkonda Jatara is an interstate religious festival of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. This festival involves shifting idols from Odisha to Andhra at Polluru village in Mothugudem mandal of East Godavari District. Incidents of untoward incidents and left-wing extremisms have been reported in the past during this festival.  
✓ But, due to abundant precautionary measures, this year's festival went on peacefully.

7. Union Cabinet has approved MoU between UPSC of India and its counterpart in which country?

- A) Sri Lanka  
B) Bangladesh  
C) Afghanistan ☒  
D) Pakistan



- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) of India and Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCS) of Afghanistan.  
✓ This MoU is aimed to share experience, expertise between the two agencies in recruitment of civil servants.

8. Where was the 116<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission between India and Pakistan held?

- A) Lahore  
B) New Delhi ☒  
C) Jaipur  
D) Jalandar



- ✓ The 116<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission meeting between India and Pakistan was held recently in New Delhi. This meeting took place after a gap of more than two and half years. This meeting coincided with the National Day of Pakistan.  
✓ It is a 2-day meeting which on the Indian side is headed by Indus Water Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Saxena.

9. Commemorative stamp of which Indian leader's visit to Odisha in 1921 has been released recently?

- A) Netaji Subash Chandra Bose  
B) Babasaheb Ambedkar  
C) 'Mahatma' Gandhi ☒  
D) 'Karmaveer' Kamarajar



- ✓ Mahatma Gandhi visited Odisha for the first time in the year 1921 (100 years ago) and had addressed a massive gathering of people as a part of his non-cooperation movement.

- ✓ To commemorate this event, a commemorative postage stamp on '100 years of first visit of Mahatma Gandhi to Odisha' has been released recently.

---

10. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India?

- A) Pankaj Kumar  
B) Guruprasad Mohapatra  
C) Arun Kumar  
D) Sanjeev Kumar ☒



- ✓ Sanjeev Kumar, a 1991 batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre, has been appointed as the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI), it said. As per the order issued by the Personnel Ministry, Atish Chandra will be Chairman and Managing Director, Food Corporation of India in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary. As many as 22 bureaucrats have been appointed to different ministries.
-